

UniFire

February 2018

*We celebrate community and
promote spirituality,
justice, responsibility,
and compassion.*

UUCY · 225 N. 2nd St, Yakima, WA 98901
509-453-8448 · uucyakima.org ·
admin@uucyakima.org

UUCY SUNDAY SERVICES ~ Join Us at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 4th

First Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Led by Merrill Thomsen, with a Story for All Ages read by Linda King.

Sunday, February 11th

The “Promise and Practice” of Our Faith

This morning we will look at ways racism and white supremacy permeate nearly every aspect and level of our lives, including, sometimes, the religious institution we hold dear. The service will feature, in absentia, many voices of Unitarian Universalist People of Color.

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Host: Emilee Solomon

SPECIAL ACTIVITY FOLLOWING SERVICES:

Chili Feed and Valentine Creation, all are welcome, more info inside!

Sunday, February 18th

The “Promise and Practice” Part 2

This morning members of our Sunday Services Committee will follow up last week’s service with more voices from Unitarian Universalists of Color. For more information on the UUA’s Promise and Practice program, see <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/promise-and-practice>

Greeter: Phil Dindia

Host: Gean Dindia

Sunday, February 25th

Sunday Worship Service

Rev. Ken Jones preaching

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Host: Mary Brunelle

Greetings from Rev. Ken Jones (a.k.a. “Ken’s Ken.”)

White supremacy.

Those are powerful words. They conjure up images of lynchings, Jim Crow, burning crosses and white robes. We tend to hate the meaning of those words, and tend to think they apply mostly to things that are removed from us in space and time. It happened long ago and somewhere else.

And even when it happens closer to home, it certainly doesn’t apply to our beloved faith community, Unitarian Universalism. We are not white supremacists!

It is relatively easy to say that, and to believe it, if one does happen to be a white Unitarian Universalist. And of course there is some truth to it – we affirm the worth and dignity of every person, and have a long history of standing up for racial justice.

It may be harder to say that, and to believe it, if you happen to be a Unitarian Universalist who is not white; if you are a black Unitarian Universalist. Indeed, there are many black Unitarian Universalists – today and throughout our history – who don’t necessarily agree with that sentiment.

We’re being asked to listen to what some of these people have to say. We’re being asked to listen even if what they say makes us uncomfortable; even if what they say contradicts some of our most cherished beliefs about ourselves.

Some of them say that Unitarian Universalists are steeped in a culture of white supremacy. Many of their white allies are saying the same thing. I think we should listen.

This month, we’re planning two of our Sunday services to do precisely that. They will both utilize resources from the UUA’s “Promise and Practice of our Faith for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism.” (Information here: <https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/promise-and-practice>) On Sunday, Feb. 11, Rev. Jones will lead a worship service drawing from this program, and the following Sunday, Feb. 18, our Sunday Services team will follow up with more voices of black UUs.

This is a particularly poignant conversation to have if one is familiar with the long and sometimes difficult history of African American people in Unitarian Universalism. If you don’t know much about this history, I encourage you to read this recent article in the UU World magazine by the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/black-hole-white-uu-psyche>.

I hope you will join me in this conversation with an open mind and heart.

In faith,
Ken

It Takes A Community

THANK YOU to Sunwest Sportswear in Richland, for helping us design the shirts, and also giving us a great deal- shirts look great!

The entire congregation is grateful this month for NANCY BORN, who has volunteered to be our Auction Queen (aka head of the Auction Team) for the second year in a row!

Years of gratitude go out to SUSAN KAPHAMMER, who has done an excellent job leading UUCY Book Club for many consecutive years- thank you, Susan!

Thank you to TRISTA SMITH, who has already donated our first Auction items of the year, including a beautiful little antique sewing chest with spool holders!

Big thanks going out to JEAN GONZALES, who has applied her time and energy to successfully revive Circle Suppers into one of UUCY's best attended activities- thank you, Jean!

Kudos and thanks to LUCY STEVENS, who organizes and coordinates many social events throughout the year!

UUCY BOARD & LEADERSHIP

Board Leadership: President: Mike Gempler, mikegempler@msn.com Vice-President: Bill Jacobs, wsjacobs99@aol.com
Trustees: Jean Gonzales, hurlburt@aol.com Merrill Thomsen, methomsen1945@me.com
Ray Yates, raycyates@gmail.com Phil Dindia, gpdindia@msn.com Carole Sahlstrand, cjsahl@q.com
Board Secretary: Nancy Born, nancyjborn@gmail.com **Minister:** Rev. Ken Jones, minister@uucyakima.org





It's A Spring Thing!

UUCY Auction 2018
Saturday, March 31, 5 p.m.



Mark **Saturday, March 31**, on your calendar as the day for celebrating the coming of spring at the UU Auction, our biggest fundraiser of the year! What you can do that someone would be eager to buy... Serve brunch on your patio? Offer help with technology? Bake a pie? Pet sit? Offer sauerkraut lessons? Be a designated driver? Tune up a bike? Help someone declutter? Repot houseplants? Plant a tree? Host a barbecue? Teach a board game? Let's create lots of ways to have fun and to help each other!

There will be both live and silent auctions—please share your talents! Unique hand-crafted, quality goods are most welcome!

Come for good food, good drink, and good company. Bring friends, too—our popular 'Bring a Friend' tickets will be available again this year! Tickets will be available after church every Sunday in March

Let's welcome spring with open hearts (and wallets)!

UUCY Auction 2018: Donation Form *Donation Deadline: Friday, March 23*

Donor Name (will be listed in catalog): _____

Donor Email and Phone # _____

Item or Service Name and Description (please include date, time, and number of people, etcetera. Minimum suggested price for each seat at hosted dinners is \$40)

MINIMUM BID (required) \$ _____ **Fair Market Value** \$ _____

Please note: If reserve (minimum bid) is not met, the item will be returned to the donor.

Items can be dropped off on Sundays during church, or you can contact Genevieve in the office to make arrangements during the week. 509-453-8448 / admin@uucyakima.org

UUCY News and Events

All In The Family

All In The Family: Update on Roger Allen Smith

Hello, everyone from Roger. I had a serious health issue last week but am recovering. I am mobile and look forward to being "Sausage King" at the February pancake breakfast. Also, playing with the band at a concert Jan 24th at Living Care Retirement. There are some physical changes that I have to adapt to and live with. We UU's are limited in number so we have to stick together. Again, many thanks to each parishioner and personal compassion to all.

Always, Roger

Valentine Creation and Chili Feed, February 11th after Sunday Services

Join us on Sunday, February 11th to create some lovely Valentines, and also enjoy a hearty meal of chili and cornbread! There will be lots of stuff on hand to create homemade Valentines, and you are also welcome to bring supplies to share. Sign up downstairs or contact Lucy Stevens at 961-7089 to let her know what you'd like to bring to eat, and we look forward to seeing you there.



SHELTER NEWS: February Meal is Almost Here!

We are looking for volunteers for food prep and serving, as well as donations of money and specific food ingredients. The meal is scheduled for Sunday, February 19th, at dinner time. There will be more information about specific menus and supply requests as the date grows closer— please let Rev. Ken Jones (minister@uucyakima.org) know if you are interested in volunteering for preparation, serving, or both!

The fundraising goal is \$800, and donations can also be made by check, just write 'Shelter Meal' in the memo line. Thank you for your continued support of the neediest among us, and for living our religion through your actions and donations!

PayPal Shelter Meals Donation Link:

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/2733595>



*Volunteers serving
the January Shelter
Meal, photo courtesy
Ray Yates*



UUCY News and Events

UUCY Healthy Relations Team: Re-Affirming Our Healthy Relations Covenant

We promise to:

Treat each other with kindness
Celebrate each other's spiritual growth
Listen deeply to others
Speak with courage and humility
Share the ministry of this congregation

Get on the Bus! was the title of a presentation written and delivered by almost all of the members of the 2008 Healthy Relations Committee on Jan. 21st of this year.

This committee was charged with articulating a covenant – a set of mutual

promises about how we choose to pursue our spiritual lives together in community. It came about after a time of turmoil and transition. UUCY was between ministers and there was division among the congregation as to whether a minister was desired or necessary.

The committee took the work seriously, researching covenants from many other churches, holding many discussions, and ultimately deciding to embrace a simple, intergenerational set of promises that all could remember and use. Recognizing the value of story as a medium for learning, each promise was presented as a journey – travelers on a bus trying to get to Mt. Rainier but having great difficulty arriving.

At a follow up service, members and friends were invited to sign the cardboard bus as a symbol of personal commitment.

The metaphorical and cardboard buses were resurrected for the Jan. 21st service.

UUCY may be in a different place now with different variations of strengths and challenges, but after being examined with an eye to the present and future as well as lessons learned from the past, it was determined that our covenant remains a relevant, necessary, useful and important guide in our church and in our world.

Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM): Call for Input and Feedback!

Our UUCY mission:

**“We celebrate community and promote spirituality,
justice, responsibility, and compassion.”**

How are we doing with that? We'd love to hear from you about what we are doing that works, where we as a community are underperforming and your ideas or vision for how we may make change to more fully achieve our mission going forward.

Call or e-mail or grab us after a service. We are:

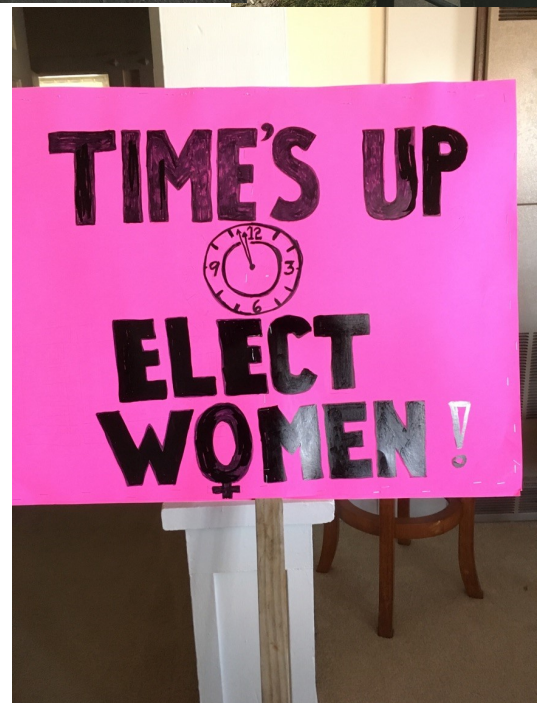
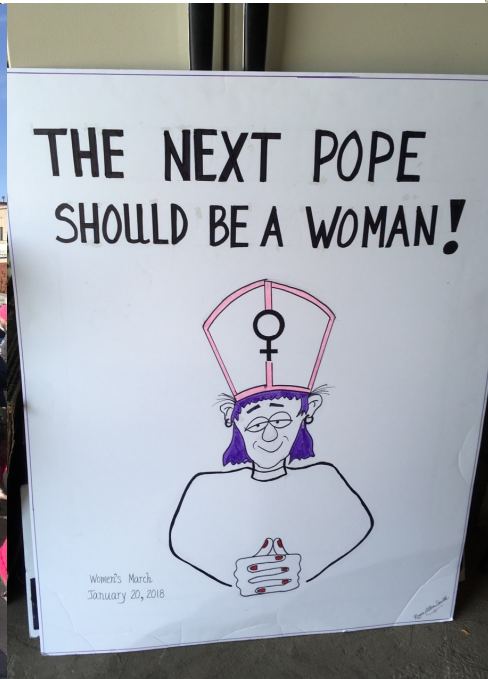
Susan Kaphammer: cell: 509-949-0127; email: susanlkap@gmail.com ;

Emilee Solomon: cell: 509-961-3521; email: emilees@aol.com ;

Chuck Forster: cell: 509-969-0409; email: bddirtpile@gmail.com .

We look forward to hearing from you!

UUCY News and Events
Photos from the 2018
WOMEN'S MARCH on YAKIMA!
Co-Sponsored by UUCY



Clockwise from top left: Marchers gather in the Millennium Plaza for speakers after the march; Ed Patton's sign—designed by Ed, illustrated by Roger Allen Smith; Merrill Thomsen opens her mouth to say, #METOO (joined by Gean Dindia); Another march sign; "Rise Up" organization meeting held in our own Ann Ingham Room following the March. Photos courtesy Ed Patton, Nancy Born, and Merrill Thomsen

UUCY Book Club

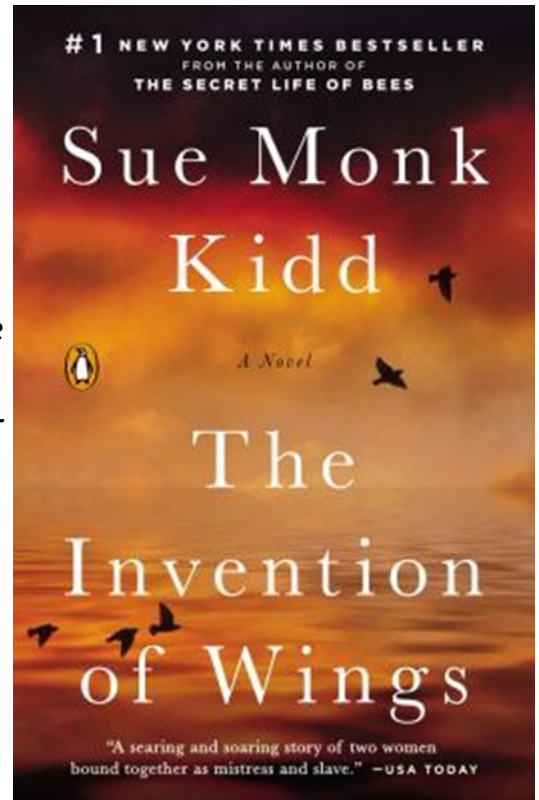
Join our informal, facilitated discussions at 6:00 PM at Taj Palace Restaurant, 2710 W Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima. Enjoy your choice of no-host beverages, appetizers, or full dinners while sharing your impression of the current book. Or just enjoy listening in if you haven't read the book. All are welcome!

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

Sue Monk Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love. As the stories build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will experience crushed hopes, betrayal, unrequited love, and ostracism before leaving Charleston to find her place alongside her fearless younger sister, Angelina, as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements.

Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented, including Handful's cunning mother, Charlotte, who courts danger in her search for something better.

This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved.—Description excerpted from Inklings Bookshop website.



UPCOMING TITLES

May 8, 2018: H is for Hawk by Helen MacDonald (memoir)

July 10, 2018: Beartown by Fredrik Backman (fiction)

September 11, 2018: White Trash: The 400-year Untold History of Class in America by Nancy Isenberg (nonfiction)

Q: Hey! Where's the calendar that's usually on the back page?

A: Glad you noticed! If you used the calendar and you miss it, please let Genevieve know, and it will be back next month! If no one misses it, the calendar might be retired, let me know how you feel, thank you!