

# UniFire

## December 2018

*Services Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.*

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

UUCY · 225 N. 2nd St, Yakima, WA 98901  
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### *Sunday, December 2nd*

#### **First Sunday Breakfast: Giving: Reflections and Conversations**

Led by Janis Luvaas and Susan Kaphammer

### *Sunday, December 9th*

#### **The Reason(s) for the “Season”**

As our nation and culture prepare for our most significant seasonal observance, Rev. Jones hopes to put some of the hype into context.

*Greeter: Cindy Lamb      Host: Emilee Solomon*

### *Sunday, December 16th*

#### **Being Present with Yourself**

“...in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.” (from Desiderata)

This service, led by Merrill Thomsen and Susan Kaphammer, will be sparse of words to offer time to experience and reflect on solitude as a spiritual practice.

*Greeter: Monk Sonker      Host: Volunteer Slot Available (see inside for more info)*

### *Sunday, December 23rd*

#### **Holiday All-Family Celebration**

All ages will enjoy this holiday celebration where we decorate our seasonal tree with the rituals and traditions that bring meaning to many of us.

*Greeter: Phil Dindia      Host: Gean Dindia*

***SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUE INSIDE!***

## *SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS: Continued*

### *MONDAY, December 24th*

#### **All Family Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carols**

Bring the family in this mix of traditional Christmas Eve service with our contemporary Unitarian Universalist message.

### *Sunday, December 30th*

#### **Turning the Corner: Reflections and Intentions**

All are invited to this informal gathering with time for personal remembrances of the past year and hopeful plans for the year to come. Join in the Fellowship Hall between 10 AM and Noon for community, conversation and coffee. Stay the whole time or just drop in.

*Greeter: Volunteer Slot Available    Host: Volunteer Slot Available*

#### **'Apple Brunch' Update:**

There will not be an Apple Brunch this year, due to the lack of a volunteer coordinator.

### ***LOOKING AHEAD:***

**Yakima Women's March, January 19, 2019**

*Sponsored by UUCY*

#### **UUCY Holiday Office Closures:**

Closed December 25 for Christmas

Closed January 1 for New Year's Day

### **Donation Drive: Backpacks for the Homeless of Yakima Valley**

UUCY is once again collecting donations for backpacks for the homeless- there are people freezing right here in our Valley, and your gently used blankets can help to save lives! Items can be dropped off at UUCY, then Triumph Treatment will collect the donated items and assemble them into backpacks, which will be distributed on Friday, December 21st at the Union Gospel Mission. Items most needed are: Blankets, sleeping bags, and hand/foot warmers; a complete list is available at UUCY, and thank you for thinking of those in need this holiday season!

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

Many of us were shocked to learn that tear gas was recently fired at people seeking asylum on the southern US border.

We’ve been shocked before, such as when we learned that children were routinely being separated from their parents on the border, or when we saw pictures of innocent children in cages.

Each time we hear some shocking news like this, we rightfully feel as if we need to express our objection to it with elected officials and the public. So we call our representatives and go to protests to insist that these kinds of tactics are uncalled for and extreme. Indeed, many of us believe that draconian tactics such as these should never be used in America.

I have to say that I agree with this sentiment and, like many of you, am appalled that the US Southern Border has become a place where we see this kind of thing happening on a regular basis – that is, if we choose to look.

I’ve also heard from some people that think what’s going on on the border is regrettable, perhaps, but necessary; maybe even good. In this view, the enforcement of border security of the United States has long suffered due to political concerns; we are doing a good thing by finally enforcing the legal standards we have regarding migration.

These two views are, of course, contradictory – at least a little. If you’re at all sympathetic with the latter view, how should we enforce our immigration laws in light of the eleven million undocumented people already living here, and the longstanding belief among many people in Latin American countries that the United States is a refuge that will accept as many as show up?

The question, as I see it, is not what tactics we should or should not be using at the border. I think the question has to do with the nature of borders and migration itself. To what extent is the United States a refuge? How much should we police our border? Should economics or politics be the determining factor? I think these questions get to the heart of what the United States is – “a nation of immigrants,” we’re often called. Is this who we still yearn to be? Are we at a point in which our identity is changing?

The American Friends Service Committee is leading a delegation of religious leaders from across the United States – including many of my colleagues in UU Ministry – in a public action on the US/Mexico border in San Diego on December 10. There is a religious witness to be had in this complex situation, a witness that is guided by the religious principle that there are no actual borders between people – that is only a politically expedient tool. Our faith, along with many others, maintains that we are all one human family, bound to and responsible for our siblings on any side of the fence. I will be with my colleagues in spirit as they make this statement publically on the border, and will continue to strive to live by the principle that our humanity trumps borders.

In faith

Ken

*Rev. Ken Jones is a graduate of Starr King, and can be reached at 509-453-8448, or at [minister@uucyakima.org](mailto:minister@uucyakima.org). His office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 12 noon, and he is also available by appointment.*

## UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS

A decorative scroll graphic with a black outline and white fill. The scroll is unrolled in the middle, and the text is written on it. The scroll has ornate, swirling ends.

### Back by Popular Demand: Sunday Adult RE!

Starting in January, we'll have Adult RE twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, at 11:30 in the newly revamped 'Adult RE Room' (formerly known as the 'Garden Room,' adjacent to the Fellowship Hall.) The topics and format are still being worked out, but it will be about 90 minutes of education, reflection, and discussion open to all twice a month. For questions or more information, contact Rev. Ken Jones or Susan Kaphammer.

### Sharing Our Church Home: Rainbow Cathedral Has MOVED!

Rainbow Cathedral has moved, and will now be at St. Micheal's Episcopal Mission (5 S. Naches Ave), every Sunday evening at 6:30 pm. Rev Bill Poores invites all UUCY members and friends to join them at their annual holiday potluck. Ham and turkey will be provided, please bring a side to share, and they hope to see you at the potluck on Saturday, December 15th, at 6:30 pm (contact office for address).

# UUCY BOOK CLUB

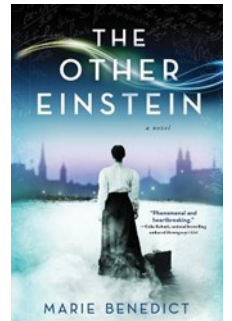
## “Stay calm... and read a book!” Upcoming Titles for UUCY Book Club

The UUCY Book Club meets the second Tuesday of alternate months at 6 PM at Taj Palace, 2710 West Nob Hill in Yakima. Everyone is invited to join for no-host dinner and good company, and to share thoughts on the current selection. If you haven't finished or even started the book, you are welcome to join us anyway and listen in.

Your intrepid Book Club leader, Susan Kaphammer, announces upcoming selections for our reading and discussing. All titles are available from the Yakima Valley Libraries and at a discount from Inklings Bookshop by mentioning our book club.

### **January 8, 2019: The Other Einstein: A Novel by Marie Benedict**

This is the story of Einstein's wife, Mitza Maric, the brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in her husband's enormous shadow. Pursuing her talents and interests, Mitza studies physics at an elite Zurich university with only male peers, all trying to outdo her clever calculations. When fellow student Albert Einstein takes an interest in her, her world turns sideways. Theirs becomes a partnership of the mind and the heart, but at what price?



### **March 12, 2019: The One-in-a Million Boy by Monica Wood**

### **May 14, 2019: The Underground Railroad: A Novel by Colson Whitehead**

*Descriptions and more information on the UUCY website, [uucyakima.org](http://uucyakima.org)!*

### **Notes from November UUCY Book Club Meeting:**

The recent gathering of the UUCY Book Club found 12 people with 12 varying opinions about the book under discussion: *A Confederacy of Dunces*. Over delicious cuisine, the lively conversation ranged from liking the book (“I laughed and laughed”) to didn't care for it (“I just couldn't get past the now inappropriate behavior”) to didn't finish (“I gave myself permission to quit after about a hundred pages”). Most of us couldn't figure out how it had won a Pulitzer Prize, but everyone enjoyed the evening.

### **Selection of Titles for Discussion:**

Your Book Club facilitator, Susan Kaphammer, looks for titles that are available in paperback and available through Yakima Valley Libraries, often in hard copy and as e-books. Welcoming suggestions of both fiction and nonfiction, she tries to schedule a variety of topics, genres, themes and styles. Often, Susan has not read the books before selecting them, but they are always titles she is interested in reading!



# UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Chair: Merrill Thomsen  
Linda King  
Susan Kaphammer  
Mike Gempler  
Debra Kroon  
Susan Gallegos

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia  
Carole Sahlstrand

## FINANCE

Chair: Janis Luvaas  
Bill Jacobs  
Merrill Thomsen

## CIRCLE SUPPERS

Jean Gonzales

## LRE: Lifetime Religious Education

Kathy Lambert  
Jean Gonzales

## COSM: Committee on Shared Ministry

Chuck Forster  
Emilee Solomon  
Susan Kaphammer  
Ken Jones

### Your 2018 to 2019 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

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