

UniFire

January 2019

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
509-453-8448 · uucyakima.org ·
admin@uucyakima.org

Sunday, January 6th

First Sunday Breakfast:

“County Courthouse, September 25, 2018”

Led by Bill Jacobs

Host: Pancake Breakfast; Diana and David Weyeneth

Sunday, January 13th

The Long March

On the Sunday before the Women’s March on Yakima, UUCY members Merrill Thomsen and Susan Kaphammer (and others) reflect on why we keep marching.

Greeter: Ted Raihl Host: Susan Kaphammer

Adult RE After Services, Room 4 in the ‘Office’ Building

Sunday, January 20th

On NOT Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

In some ways, it has become too easy — especially for people who identify as white — to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King. To really understand his work, and what remains to be done in America today, means this should be really hard work. Reverend Ken Jones preaching.

Greeter: Emilee Solomon Host: Volunteer Slot Available

Sunday, January 27th

The Practice of Naming

Humans are creatures greatly informed by our use of language. One way we use language is to name people and things. Lakes, rivers, eras, and even religious communities are named. Is that what they then become?

Reverend Ken Jones preaching.

Greeter: Volunteer Slot Available Host: Volunteer Slot Available

Adult RE After Services, Room 4 in the ‘Office’ Building

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

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

I suppose the beginning of a new year is a good time to be melodramatic, so my contribution here is to wax sentimentally about one of our (former) tenants here at UUCY, the Rainbow Cathedral. As you probably heard, our friends at Rainbow moved out late last year, having found new accommodations – and possibly, a new partner – at St. Michael’s Episcopal Mission on the corner of Yakima and Naches Avenues. They will be missed here.

Also as you probably know, the Rainbow Cathedral is a Christian congregation that is founded upon the Christian principle that all people are loved and worthy – including those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and queer (GLBTQ.) They have long been affiliated with the international Metropolitan Community Church, which was founded in the late 1960s as a church with the special mission of welcoming and including people who are GLBTQ, at a time when almost every other “Christian” church would not. This local congregation was incorporated in the late 1990’s, still a time – at least locally – when few other congregations would do what they do. The records I’ve found indicate that they have rented space from us ever since we bought this building.

So, in being sentimental, I’d like to posit that this is the end of an era. Of sorts.

I shared with our Board of Trustees two thoughts about this move that I think are relevant:

1. We hosted this congregation back when it was still very much against the grain among mainline churches to actively welcome GLBTQ people, and we should be proud of our doing so when they (the folk at Rainbow Cathedral) needed a home. That they have found a new home among the mainline churches in Yakima is no surprise to me – times have changed, and thankfully many more congregations have expanded their understanding of unconditional love in this manner. This newfound wider acceptance means that our Unitarian Universalist practice of inclusion of all people is less unique than it used to be – it used to be something that made us stand out, but now, not so much. That is a great thing, of course, but comes with some humility that we are no longer as bold as we used to seem to be.
2. The Rainbow Cathedral is eager about their new home, in part, because it is being offered to them rent-free. I find that not surprising, for I know that St. Michael’s considers it part of their mission to share their facility with others of similar missions. They also host a number of twelve-step meetings, a food pantry, citizenship classes, and other community groups – all, presumably, for little or no rent. Our Board and I have been working in recent years to grow our outreach through use of our building, often offering it rent-free to various users, but also trying to balance such outreach with efforts to not incur extra costs. Here, we have “lost” a regular tenant that paid rent (albeit not a lot) to another location that offered them space at no cost. This, in my opinion, reflects the relatively low premium our local market puts on spaces like ours. As we continue our conversation about options for our building and how we use it, we should take note of this.

I hope you join me in wishing our friends at Rainbow Cathedral all the best in their new home.

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. His office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 12 noon, and he is also available by appointment.

New Classes Start Sunday, January 13th!

UUCY ADULT R.E. NEWS

Adult Religious Education will be offered on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, beginning the second Sunday in January with the education series titled, **THE WISDOM PATH: MONEY, SPIRIT, AND LIFE**. This program provides a structured opportunity to talk about money and the way it intersects with our spiritual and ethical values. Going far beyond “Financial Literacy 101” over the next few months, participants will engage with topics such as personal and cultural money stories, economic justice, classism, and the impact of our financial decision making on our ability to live lives of meaning and purpose.

Join Susan Kaphammer, facilitator, after services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Our first session, on January 13, will introduce the topic and prompt us to think about our own spoken and unspoken beliefs about our financial lives.

Consistent attendance through the series is encouraged;
Attendance at individual sessions is welcome.

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!

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 NEWS AND EVENTS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Host and Greeter Sign-Ups

When you're downstairs after services, don't forget to sign up as a volunteer Host or Greeter for a Sunday Service (or two)! Not a fan of baking? Krispy Kreme donuts has a drive-thru, and we promise no one will judge you if the treats aren't homemade.

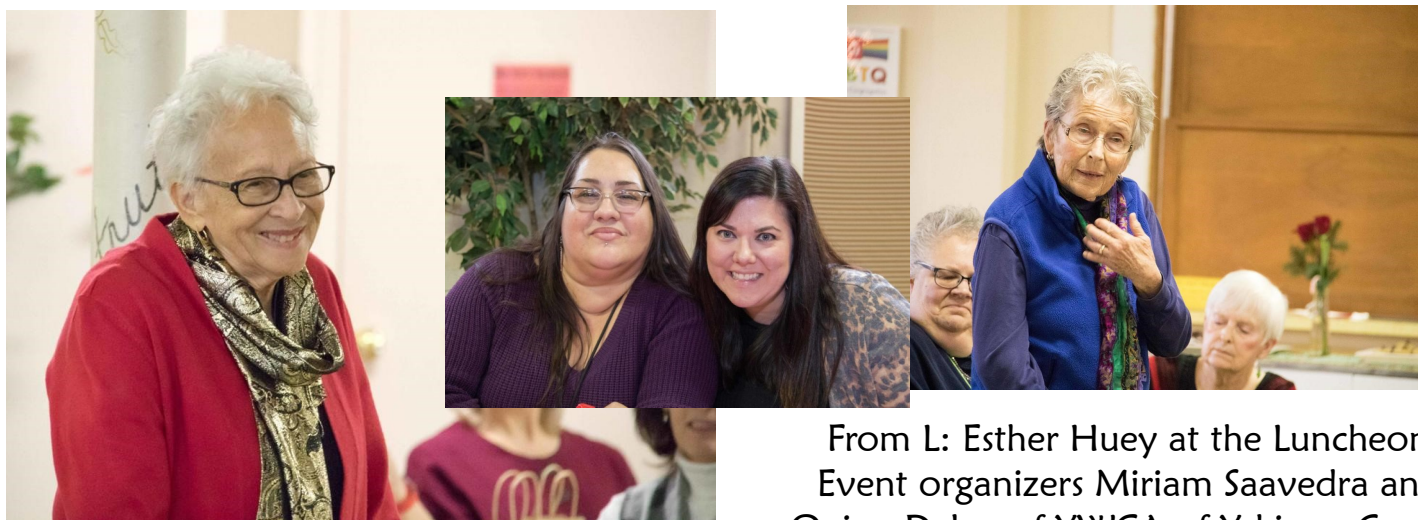
Greeters arrive 20 minutes before service begin and complete the arduous task of handing out Orders of Service at the door, and greetings our guests and visitors.

Hosts are asked to bring snacks to serve 30-40 guests, and it can be as simple as grabbing some cookies from the Safeway bakery.

Contact Genevieve to check open slots, and THANK YOU to those who consistently give their time and energy to make UUCY function smoothly!

SHARING OUR CHURCH HOME: Annual Women's Holiday Luncheon

One of the many ways UUCY gives back is by sponsoring other events through the use of our space, like the Annual Women's Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 7th, 2018. Around 70 local women were in attendance, including our own Genevieve Gonzales and Gean Dindia.



From L: Esther Huey at the Luncheon; Event organizers Miriam Saavedra and Quinn Dalan of YWCA of Yakima; Gean Dindia during the event.

A Note from the Office: Faster Check Processing!

In an ever-continuing attempt to make easier the lives of our members, we now have a new and more efficient way of processing checks that are written to UUCY! Please be advised that instead of the usual two week wait for the funds to be deducted from your account, it could be as soon as the next business day. We hope this makes your personal accounts easier to track, and I will be happy to answer any questions you might have about the new process. Thank you as always for your continued support!

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:

Board President	Mike Gempler	mikegempler@msn.com
Board Vice Pres.	Bill Jacobs	wsjacobs99@aol.com
Trustee	Phil Dindia	gpdindia@msn.com
Trustee	Jean Gonzales	hurlburt@aol.com
Trustee	Carole Sahlstrand	cjsahl@q.com
Trustee	Merrill Thomsen	methomsen1945@me.com
Trustee	Ray Yates	raycyates@gmail.com

UUCY OFFICE: 225 N. 2nd St, Yakima, WA 98901 • uucyakima.org

Office Manager– Genevieve Gonzales, 509-453-8448, admin@uucyakima.org

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:30 to 3:00