

# UniFire

## May 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](http://uucyakima.org) ·  
[admin@uucyakima.org](mailto:admin@uucyakima.org)

*Sunday, May 5th*

**First Sunday Breakfast: Wired To Be Tribal**

Presented by Chuck Forster

*Greeter: Volunteer slot available*

*Sunday, May 12th*

**Mother's Day: "To Do" As Much As "To Be"**

Rev Ken Jones speaking.

*Greeter: Liz Angland*

*Host: Maleah & Sora McPherson*

*Sunday, May 19th*

**Spiritual Practices of Daily Life**

Presented by Mike Gempler

*Greeter: Volunteer slot available*

*Host: Liz Angland*

*Sunday, May 26th*

**Systems Thinking**

Presented by Rev. Ken Jones

*Greeter: Phil Dindia*

*Host: Gean Dindia*

*Looking Ahead:*

**ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, June 9th,  
after Sunday Services**

**Flower Communion: Sunday, June 9th**

Photo: 'Our' stretch of the highway!

Taken by Denise Edwards last October, during Highway Pick-Up!

*See inside for more information on Highway Pick-Up.*



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

Change. Change is hard.  
Change is also inevitable.  
And change can be liberating.

In the Buddhist tradition, one of the three marks of existence is impermanence, or the concept that all material things change. Nothing stays the same, not only from year to year but even from moment to moment. One reason we need to be spiritually grounded is to anchor ourselves in light of impermanence. Spiritual things don’t change – everything else does.

Here at UUCY, we’ve been having a lot of conversations about “Housing Our Ministry,” that is, exploring our options related to the physical place in which we meet regularly. Having purchased this beautiful and historic building nearly two decades ago, it serves us well, but our congregation, like nearly all congregations, is in a state of flux – or shall we say “impermanence?” Our building houses many aspects of our ministries, but it also “houses” a lot of empty space – space that we simply don’t use anymore. It has also become apparent that staying in this building costs us a lot of money and effort, and while maintaining any facility for worship and gathering does inevitably cost money, there are specific concerns about future costs for primary maintenance and/or repairs that we, currently, lack the resources to cover.

So for the past eight or nine months, the Board and two committees have been delving into the questions about our options, and talking to many of you about your ideas, wishes, and concerns. The Board appointed a special “Building Committee” (Ray Gonzales, Ray Yates, and Nancy Born) to look into the practical and financial considerations of the various options, and the Committee on Shared Ministry (Susan Kaphammer, Chuck Forster, and Emilee Solomon) have been compiling “soft” data on what impacts different options would bring. Recently, these two committees have been working together to coordinate our efforts and to articulate what options are feasible for us to consider.

There may be some concerns about us moving too fast in such an endeavor – we need to carefully consider all options and implications, and seek out input from all stakeholders before making any long-term decisions. To those concerns I’d like to offer my reassurance that your Board, these committees, and all those involved in these discussions are committed to doing exactly that, and to practice transparency so that all know what is going on. In that spirit, the two committees are planning two open Q&A sessions after church services on May 19 and June 2. There will also be, of course, some discussion about our options at our Annual Meeting on June 9.

Purchasing this building some twenty years ago was an act of big and courageous faith, and no matter what we decide to do next it will remain a defining moment in the history of this congregation. That we’ll never take away. But to continue to be true to the spirit of our liberal faith tradition as well as the courage of those who said “yes” two decades ago, we need to continue to seek out the most effective ways to practice our ministry for now and for the generations to come.

I invite you to participate in this important work. Because change is not only hard, it is inevitable.

In faith  
Ken

*Rev. Ken Jones (he/his/him) 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.*

# Housing Our Ministry

Members of UUCY have been working on two committees to identify concerns and options for our congregation to decide how we might best "House Our Ministry." These committees recently met and scheduled times to share and discuss their information with church members and friends.

**All are encouraged to meet after services on Sunday, May 19, or Sunday, June 2.**

Costs related to using and maintaining our building are a large portion of our annual budget. There is little leeway for significant upkeep or unforeseen emergency (i.e., painting the parapet, boiler failure or roof failure). In addition, there are concerns about a good "fit" for our congregation (i.e., the size of the sanctuary and difficult handicapped access.)

In after-church meetings last October and November, the Committee on Shared Ministry -- Chuck Forster, Emilee Solomon, and Susan Kaphammer -- encouraged members to consider how we experience and further our missions around community, spirituality, justice and learning. Additional interviews of church members and friends added perspectives. Meanwhile, the Board appointed Ray Gonzales, Nancy Born and Ray Yates to gather information about possibilities and expenses for options. Information from both of these efforts will be provided in the upcoming meetings so that the question of how to best "House Our Ministry" can be meaningfully discussed at our Annual Meeting on June 9.



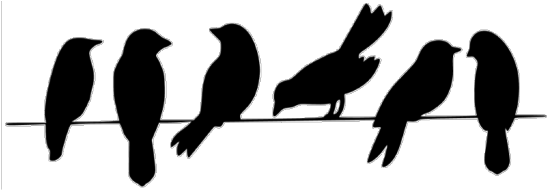
**There is no established deadline for this decision.**

But all members and friends are encouraged to engage in the process. Come after church on May 19 or June 2 to listen and share your thoughts and feelings. And come to the Annual Meeting on June 9. Feel free to contact members of the committees for a personal conversation.

# UUCY AUCTION!

*UUCY Auction 2019*

*Birds of a Feather*

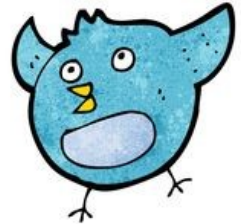


**Saturday, March 30th**

## Auction 2019– By The Numbers

Tickets	\$855.00
<b>DINNER AND EVENT SIGN UPS</b>	<b>\$3700.00+</b>
Quick Buy	\$455.00
Items (Live, Silent)	\$2,783.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7.793.00</b>

THANK YOU for your support in another successful UUCY Auction! We surpassed our initial goal of \$7k, and we couldn't do it without YOU!



*THANK YOU to all of our 2019 Auction Donors!*

- ♦ Andrew Whitmont
  - ♦ Betsy Hunt
  - ♦ Bill Jacobs
  - ♦ Caffé 11th Ave.
  - ♦ Chuck Forster
  - ♦ Cindy & Phil Lamb
    - ♦ Criss Bardill
- ♦ Debbie Brown– ‘thirty-one’ bags
  - ♦ Debra Kroon
  - ♦ Denise Lefebvre
- ♦ Emilee & Roger Solomon
  - ♦ Gean Dindia
  - ♦ Hannah Harrison
- ♦ Kathy & Jack Lambert
- ♦ Janis & Randy Luvaas
- ♦ Jean & Ray Gonzales
  - ♦ Jenifer Rodgers
  - ♦ Linda Galloway
  - ♦ Liz Angland
- ♦ Los Hernandez Tamales
  - ♦ Lucy Stevens
  - ♦ Maia Mittelstaedt
- ♦ Maryann Smith– Norwex
  - ♦ Merrill Thomsen
  - ♦ Michael Conner
- ♦ Michael & Jessica Gempler
  - ♦ Nancy Born
  - ♦ Hannah Born
  - ♦ Phil & Cindy Lamb
  - ♦ Phil & Gean Dindia
  - ♦ Ray Gonzales
  - ♦ Scott Holman
- ♦ Steven Goodwin– The Haberdasher
  - ♦ Sue Boyd
  - ♦ Sunny Sonker
  - ♦ Susan Kaphammer
  - ♦ Trina Magyar
  - ♦ Wanda Jean Dupre

## UUCY News and Events



### ***DON'T TOSS THAT BASKET!***

Did you purchase a gift basket at Auction? First, THANK YOU! And secondly, if you don't particularly fancy the basket and don't plan on keeping it, **please bring it back to UUCY for use in another Auction!** Medium to large size baskets are needed every year, and we will be happy to store them in the dedicated Auction Room downstairs.

Thank you for your continued support!

### **Greeters Needed!**

**UU community members:** We need a few welcoming people to be greeters for our Sunday Services. You don't have to be gregarious or any kind of extrovert to say good morning and to hand out the Order of Service. It is an added bonus if you smile and make eye contact and make people feel glad that they arrived at our door on a Sunday morning!

It's important that we have someone at our main door every Sunday! If each of us could sign up for one Sunday, we would be set for the Spring Services!

Check the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall and commit to this activity, and to being at UUCY 20 minutes early on your Greeter Sunday! Thanks.

### **Join the 'Swashbuckling Heroine and Heroes Book Club'!**

Member Tony Long is leading the 'Swashbuckling Heroine and Heroes Book Club', with meetings scheduled once per month. If you would like more information or to join the group, reach out to Tony directly at [anthonyLong4111@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyLong4111@gmail.com), all are welcome! Discussions every 10 chapters. Members can also communicate online via Goodreads. Meetings are one and a half hours with a brown bag lunch.

Participants must come prepared to participate, having read the text.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The number of chapters to be read for the May 11th meeting has been reduced to 20!

2019 SCHEDULE FOR

### **Swashbuckling Heroine and Heroes Book Club**

*Meets every 2nd Saturday of the Month at UUCY,  
Brown Bag Lunch Meeting from 12 to 1:30*

May 11th, June 8th, & July 13th: *The Count of Monte Cristo*



## UUCY HIGHWAY PICK-UP!



Contact Denise Edwards for more information, or to join them on their next trip! Volunteers are always needed.

[11denisis@gmail.com](mailto:11denisis@gmail.com)



## THE WISDOM PATH: MONEY, SPIRIT, and LIFE

UUCY ADULT R.E. NEWS

# See You in September!

Adult Religious Education sessions, originally scheduled for after services on the second and fourth Sundays, will be suspended for now and resume in September. Plan to participate then in "The Wisdom Path: Money, Spirit, and Life" for exploration, discussion and learning toward spiritual lives better supported, rather than hindered, by personal and social financial realities and possibilities.

Contact Susan Kaphammer with any questions or comments.

# UUCY BOOK CLUBS

## Gather to Talk Books!

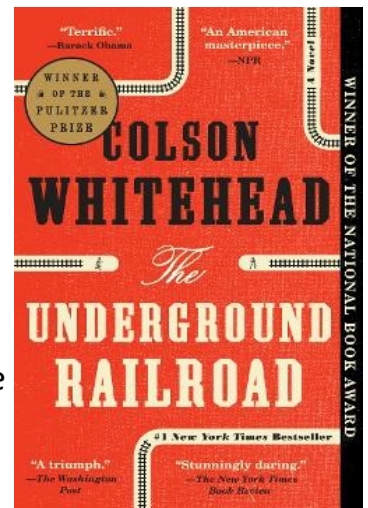
The UUCY Book Club meets the second Tuesday of alternate months at 6 PM at Taj Palace, 2710 West Nob Hill in Yakima. Everyone is invited to join for no-host dinner and to share thoughts on the current selection. If you haven't finished (or even started the book) you are welcome to sit in, listen to the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

All titles are available from the Yakima Valley Libraries, at a discount from Inklings Bookshop by mentioning our book club, and other book outlets.

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

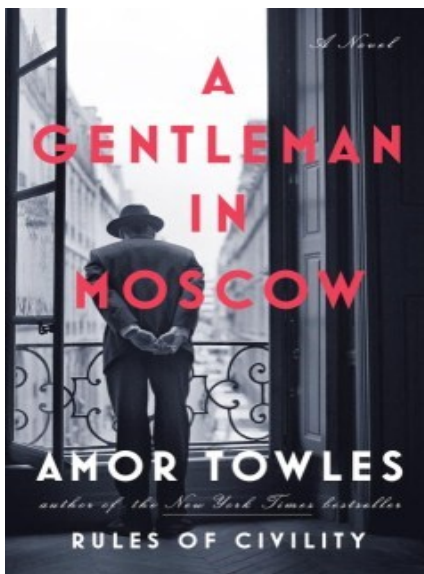
In Colson Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor: engineers and conductors operate a secret network of actual tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. The novel follows Cora, a young slave from a cotton plantation in Georgia, on her harrowing flight from one state to the next, encountering, like Gulliver, strange yet familiar iterations of her own world at each stop. Re-creating the terrors of the antebellum era, Whitehead weaves into his novel the saga of our nation from the brutal abduction of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day.

"A successful amalgam: a realistically imagined slave narrative and a crafty allegory; a tense adventure tale and a meditation on America's defining values." – *Minneapolis Star Tribune*



### July 9, 2019: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street



from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose. "And the intrigue! ... [A Gentleman in Moscow] is laced with sparkling threads (they will tie up) and tokens (they will matter)..."

- *The San Francisco Chronicle*

(Book descriptions adapted from web pages for Yakima Valley Libraries and Inklings Bookshop.)

# 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:

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

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**Office Manager– Genevieve Gonzales, 509-453-8448, [admin@uucyakima.org](mailto:admin@uucyakima.org)**

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