

# UniFire

## July 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  
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*Join us DOWNSTAIRS in the Fellowship Hall,  
where it is nice and cool!*

*Sunday, July 7th*

**First Sunday Breakfast: Hands Up! With Linda King**

*Greeter: Emilee Solomon*

*Host: David and Diana Weyeneth*

*Sunday, July 14th*

**50 Shades of White**

Deeper consideration of terms such as "white privilege" and "racism" reveals complex, confusing and challenging layers of meaning for ourselves and our society. Several members will help explore these meanings in a call to conscience and consciousness.

*Greeter: Volunteer Needed*

*Host: Emilee Solomon*

*Sunday, July 21st*

**Our Evolutionary Tribal Roots: Moving Forward**

Presented by Charles Forster

*Greeter: Volunteer Needed*

*Host: Liz Angland*

*Sunday, July 28th*

**Coffee and Conversation**

Join us for an informal morning of coffee and  
conversation with your UUCY family!

Co-hosted by Merrill Thomsen, Bill Jacobs, and Debra Kroon.

*Greeter: Bill Jacobs*

*Host: Debra Kroon*

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

Wow!

That nicely sums up my experience – and the experience of thousands of others – from the recent Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Spokane. As of this writing, I just returned two days ago from both the UU Minister’s Association meeting (Mon-Wed) and the General Meeting (Wed-Sun.) Several thousand Unitarian Universalists from across the country and around the world gathered to worship, learn, relate, make music and art, and explore both the history and the future of our faith.

Some of the conversations about the future (and the present, for that matter) of our faith were the difficult, as they centered on the current efforts to change the way the culture of white supremacy affects our Unitarian Universalist Association and our congregations. These are difficult conversations, but necessary – and are also, when undertaken authentically and not defensively, highly spiritual conversations.

There’s lots more I can say about this experience, and more that you can probably hear from the nearly dozen other UUCY members who attended all or part of the GA. In fact, some will be sharing aspects of their experiences at our service on July 28. And of course, for those who weren’t there, there will be highlights coming in the *UU World* magazine and on the Association’s website [uua.org](http://uua.org).

One particular experience that I’d like to mention was a dinner meeting attended by our UUCY delegation with the Rev. Sarah Schurr, our Congregational Contact with the Pacific Western Region of the UUA. (In simple terms, Sarah is the closest we come to having a Bishop.) It was an interesting and wide-ranging discussion, but I think I can sum it up by sharing two things that Sarah emphasized about vital and relevant religious communities:

First, we are driven by mission. “Mission” in this sense is not the same as our “Mission Statement.” (Which, by the way, none of us could recite by memory – “We celebrate community and promote spirituality, justice, responsibility, and compassion”) Mission statements are particular articulations, while “mission” is a wide-ranging and underlying sense of why we are here. All UU congregations, Sarah said, have essentially the same mission – to transform lives and communities. So with every decision we make – including any decisions about our facilities – we should keep in mind what it is that will help us serve our mission.

The other thing she shared has to do with the research about how religious communities are changing, or need to change, to keep up with a changing world. Most people no longer come to church for information or for community – these are things people get from the online world. People *do* come for transformative experiences, things that actually help them feel like their lives are changed.

Hearing her say this, I was reminded of those four core values we articulated a few years ago in our visioning sessions: community, spirituality, justice, and learning. Of those four, according to this research, two are not very relevant any more: community and learning. But the other two very much are: spirituality and justice. To transform this church to one that is relevant to a new generation of seekers, we perhaps need to look at the core values that have brought many of us here thus far.

Lots to talk about, isn’t there? Or put more simply: “Wow!”

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.*

# UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS



## UUCY Highway Pick-up: Next Date is August or September!

We had another amazing turn out of nine folks participating in the highway pick up on June 29th. The weather was perfect, and the scenery beautiful.

While talking with the maintenance supervisor for Rimrock/White Pass, he expressed his sincere gratitude for our groups and others like us.

We make a positive difference.

Outings are always on a Saturday morning. The next one will be in August or September.

Watch the August UniFire for the date.

For more information, call Denise at 9zero1-3770 and/or look online at <https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Operations/adoptahwy/video.htm>

## You're Invited: Pippins Party, Saturday, August 10th

Come celebrate summer with a barbecue and baseball! Start the party at 4:00 at the home of Ray & Jean Gonzales at 907 South 31st Avenue. They will provide Hebrew dogs, buns, condiments, and bottled water; let them know in advance if you'd like a "veggie dog."

Please bring a side dish to share.

After the barbecue we can trek to Yakima County Stadium to watch our home town team, the Pippins! Jean

will order discounted pre-sale tickets and parking passes for the game- you can reimburse her at the party. If you're not a minor league baseball fan, come for the food and camaraderie--no baseball required! See you there!



**UUCY Quilting Group now meets on the 4th Saturday of each month-** all are welcome, and the next meeting is Saturday, July 27th, 9 am to 12 noon right here at UUCY. Knitters, hookers, and crafters all welcome!

# UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS

## Open Letter from Tony Long to UUCY Members and Friends

Dear UU's, I have decided to end my membership in the church. This was not an easy decision for me, or a quick one. I have been mulling it over for several years. Early in March, 2 years ago, I had a near death experience and was in a coma. When I woke from that, I had a single thought in mind - "I must commit myself to the Buddhist path." I have been working on that ever since. I have sat in retreat with Buddhist communities in Oregon, Olympia and Bellingham. These experiences have only deepened my commitment to walking that path.

I have felt very at home in the UU church and I consider many of you to be my dear friends. I hope that we will be able to maintain these friendships in the future, if you are open to that. At this time, however, I want to devote myself to deepening my meditation practice with others and building a Zen Buddhist community here in Yakima. Given constraints on my energy, I felt I needed to choose what my primary goal was for the future and this is the choice I've made. I hope you will be understanding of my choice and should you want to talk with me, I will be available to talk with anyone about this to clarify my process.

Peace to one and all,

Tony

*Share the Plate Recipients for 2019 to 2021:*

## Planned Parenthood & La Casa Hogar!



*UUCY donates a portion of our weekly plate collection to agencies serving our community. Following voting at our Annual Meeting, Planned Parenthood and La Casa Hogar will be the recipients for the next two years. Thank you to all who voted!*



# UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS

## UUCY Board of Trustees: Welcome Jack Lambert! Farewell Jean Gonzales and Nancy Born!

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of the UUCY Board of Trustees, Jack Lambert! Also, we extend our sincere gratitude to departing Trustee Jean Gonzales, who just completed two consecutive terms of service.

We would also like to thank departing Board Secretary Nancy Born, who has served for the better part of decade, usually without kudos or recognition. Her detailed notes will be missed, but not as much as her presence.

### THANK YOU ALL!

## WANTED: Large Air Circulator for Ivy Room

The newly refreshed Ivy Room is proving to be a popular location for meetings and groups, and it could really use a large air circulator (aka a Vornado-type fan) to keep the air moving during summer months! Scott and I thought we would check with our members and friends before we bought one— he says we need one that's about 24" across, with the ability to tilt 90 degrees. Let us know if you have one in your garage that fits the bill, and see you in the Ivy Room!

## UUCY BOOK CLUBS

### 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.

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 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

Jean Gonzales

## COSM: Committee on Shared Ministry

Chuck Forster  
Emilee Solomon  
Susan Kaphammer  
Ken Jones

### Your 2019 to 2020 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>	Jack Lambert	johnmlam@msn.com
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<i>Trustee</i>	Ray Yates	raycyates@gmail.com

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