

UniFire

October 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, October 6th

First Sunday Breakfast: The Freedom Project

Presented by Mike Anthony with Debra Kroon

Hosted by David and Diana Weyeneth, Roger Smith, and Scott Holman

Sunday, October 13th

Perspectives from a High School Senior

Our guest this morning will be Anna Ergeson, a UUCY friend and a writer for the Yakima Herald's Unleashed page.

Greeter: Phil Dindia Host: Gean Dindia

Sunday, October 20th

Those "Mucky" Words

Many of us have trouble hearing words evoking traditional religion. This morning Rev. Jones will acknowledge this and offer some new ways of interpreting old words with sometimes harmful meaning.

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Host: Volunteer Needed

Sunday, October 27th

What Would Moses Do?

This morning Rev. Jones will be joined by Rev. Paul Benz of the Washington Faith Action Network, a statewide interfaith network advocating for the common good. UUCY will also be hosting the FAN Fall Cluster Gathering later in the day from 2 to 4 p.m.

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Host: Janet Kincaid

*All services are followed by coffee and community,
downstairs in the Fellowship Hall*

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

It’s that time of the month again: time for the Minister – or Pastor or Priest or Shepherd or whatever name you call it – to put pen in hand and write a brief column for the church newsletter. Okay, to say we/I “put pen in hand” is to engage in an anachronism. Like most of you, I rarely write with pens anymore. But there is another throwback to an earlier time contained in my opening sentence, albeit one more subtle.

When I first started writing newsletter columns as a Minister, I thought of it as a chance for me to reflect on things happening in the world and write about them, in order to encourage ongoing reflection on important events. Like, say, if the President of the United States were being impeached. What does this mean? What are the implications for people of faith?

That view of newsletter columns seems almost as quaint as does the vision of a Minister writing them with a pen and paper. In the era of 24/7 news and opinions and voluminous social media posts, there doesn’t seem much point to me reflecting on an event like that, largely because there are literally thousands of reflections pouring into all of our homes and attentions minute by minute as each drama unfolds. Who needs to hear my opinion on it? By the time you read this, there will likely be hundreds of developments making my observations completely out of date.

And. Yet.

And yet maybe that’s the problem our democracy has today. We are constantly under the siege of yet more and more developments to the extent that we don’t have time to process or understand what happened just now, or a minute or two ago.

I inquired of some of my Minister colleagues if they sensed that people were feeling more anxiety in the last week or so since these impeachment proceedings began. The response I got suggested there was more giddiness than anxiety – and I certainly understand that. But I sense there’s some underlying anxiety because it seems quite possible, if not likely, that the increasing acrimony in Washington and around dinner tables across the country may be on a path of getting worse before there is any resolution.

My hope is religious communities such as UUCY can be a place for us to process all that is going on, and to prepare ourselves – at least mentally and spiritually if not physically – for the real possibility of increasing societal unrest. I’m not sure that Americans would know how to handle significant unrest like, say, they’re having in Hong Kong these days. But what if it comes to that?

Rest assured for one thing: we are here for each other.

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

UUCY FAITH FORMATION*

**The designator 'Religious Education' ('RE') has been changed to 'Faith Formation' ('FF')
Read on for lots of new information!*

Welcoming Children to Church

Morning Sunday school is no more, but welcoming children to whole congregation worship is a substantial shift that can engender some anxiety. Unitarian Universalism is one of the few denominations in the United States that assumes that children cannot and should not be in weekly worship services for an hour. This is thought to be one of the reasons so many of our youth leave the denomination after high school. If that is not enough, Kimberly Sweeney offers more reasons to welcome children to church, including: Children are people too; a kid-friendly church is a parent-friendly church; when we plan for children to be involved, we plan better, richer services; and kids have lots to offer.

You can help make the transition to whole congregation worship easier. Children, as well as fidgety adults, often find it easier to listen if they can draw or write. There are plenty of markers and crayons in the children's supply closet and paper that can be cut to size. If you would like to prepare "busy" sets, either Office Manager Genevieve or Jean can help find supplies and a place to work. It might be helpful to cut cardboard to size or pick up small clipboards at the dollar store in order to have a firm writing surface.

Another project, which could appeal to older kids and adults, is Sunday Service Bingo. Each of nine squares includes a word or idea from the morning's service. The listener is encouraged to mark the square as they hear the word; yelling "Bingo" is discouraged. This project requires extra work by the presenter and office manager as well as extra space in the order of service, so may not be practical.

Change is difficult. UUCY does not have a traditional Sunday school program anymore because it does not work for today's families. The designator Religious Education has changed to Faith Formation. Families with children are invited and welcomed to Sunday services. These are a lot of changes. We honor the past and move toward the future, trying not to stumble too often.

In faith, Jean Gonzales, Faith Formation Coordinator

UUCY FAITH FORMATION

New Routes to Familiar Goals

A small, but mighty group, came together to identify some of the objectives that are important to them in their children's Faith Formation. These include a place to explore faith/spirituality, a community of trustworthy and intelligent adults, learning about Unitarian Universalism, freedom to attend adult worship, socialization with like-minded peers, and more. The group agreed to begin with an idea that has worked for other congregations with just a few kids—monthly social action projects.

Everyone in the congregation is invited to meet on the third Sunday of the month from 5:30 to 7:00. The children and youth will have significant input in choosing and planning the projects. We'll begin with a short in-gathering including a chalice lighting, song, and a statement/discussion of how the project is related to our personal faith or understanding of Unitarian Universalism.

Children's Faith Formation at Yakima is in "beta," meaning that we are trying something new. It will be an ongoing process of seeing what works and what needs to be adjusted. Everyone is invited to participate as part of our job as a congregation is to support the spiritual development of children and their families. Unless otherwise noted, we do not have food or beverages at Faith Formation events.

October 20, 2019 Faith Formation Multi-Age Social Action Project

Did you know that many homeless women have little or no access to menstrual products? No public program provides tampons, pads, or panty liners. Homeless and housing insecure women might use toilet paper or other unhealth or unsafe materials. This not only can be embarrassing, but can lead to reproductive or urinary tract infections. You can help!

Diana Weyeneth suggested our first Formation Multi-Age Social Action Project collect, package, and distribute menstrual products for homeless women in Yakima. You can purchase tampons, pads, panty liners, quart zip-lock bags, or small hand sanitizers or wipes and drop them in the FF donation box in the church office by October 18. Or, you can write a check made out to UUCY, noted Faith Formation social action, by Tuesday October 15th so that supplies can be purchased in bulk.

Everyone is invited on October 20th at 5:30. We will have a short in-gathering with a chalice lighting, a song, and a statement about how this project is related to our personal faith or understanding of Unitarian Universalism. Unless otherwise noted, there is no food or drink at Faith Formation events.

UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS

Chalice Circle Meeting: Sunday, October 27, After Services

Are you interested in attending a six week Chalice Circle? If so, join us after services on Sunday, October 27 in the Ann Ingham Room to get more information! Questions? Call Emilee at 509.961-3521 or Gean at 206-459-9602.

UUCY Social News: 'Harriet' Movie, You're Invited!

Join organizer Tony Long (and several other interested UUCYers!) at a group meet-up to see the movie 'Harriet' at the theater when it is released in November. This will be a no-host movie (and possible dinner), watch this space or contact Tony Long for more information.

You (YES YOU!) Are Invited:

Faith Action Network's Annual Cluster Gathering, Hosted by UUCY!

You are invited to Faith Action Network's annual Cluster Gathering at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima** (225 N 2nd St, Yakima) on Sunday, October 27 from 2-4 PM. Join us as we discuss the work that has taken place throughout the year and find ways to collectively make our communities stronger. We are excited to learn about the advocacy and social justice efforts you all are doing and hope that this gathering sparks new interests, ideas, and ways to further social justice in our state. [Faith Action Network](#) is a statewide interfaith organization dedicated to building a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

LOCAL SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENTS

Compiled by the UUCY Social Justice Team

- **Domestic Violence Vigil**, sponsored by YWCA; Monday, October 14th, 5:30-7pm at Millennium Plaza in downtown Yakima
- **Hate Crimes: Religious and Ethnic**, Panel presentation sponsored by the NAACP; Tuesday, October 15th, 6-8 pm at Henry Beauchamp Community Center
- **Presentation on the Deportation Pipeline in Yakima and the Valley**, Wednesday, October 23rd, 7-9 pm, Yakima Valley College Student Union. Sponsored by Yakima Immigrant Response Network (YIRN) and Yakima Valley College.
- **Homeless Network of Yakima Meeting**, Wednesday, November 13th, 3-5 pm at Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, 3rd floor Paddock Room.

Recurring Events:

Supportive Sign Waving for Planned Parenthood, on Tieton across from PP at corner of Tieton and Queen, every Thursday from 10 am to 11 am. Signs available.

Citizens Climate Change Lobby Yakima, Second Saturday of every month, 9-11 am at 1806 West Lincoln Ave. Discussion, presentations, advocacy.

UUCY BOOK CLUBS

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 our 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.

Both of these books have been named one of the Best Books of the Year by NPR and others. They are available from the Yakima Valley Libraries in print and electronic versions, and at a discount from Inklings Bookshop by mentioning our book club.

November 12, 2019: *Manhattan Beach: A Novel* by Jennifer Egan

Set in Brooklyn in the 1940s, *Manhattan Beach* tells the story of Anna Kerrigan, a young woman who has dropped out of Brooklyn College to contribute what she can to the American war effort. Unsatisfied with her job of inspecting and measuring machine parts, she attempts to enter the male-only world of deep-sea diving.

Manhattan Beach is rich and atmospheric, highlighting a period when gangs controlled the waterfront, jazz streamed from the doors of nightclubs, and the future for everyone was far from certain. At once a suspenseful noir intrigue and a work of lyrical beauty and emotional heft, *Manhattan Beach* takes us into a world populated by gangsters, sailors, divers, bankers, and union men in an exploration of a transformative moment in the lives and identities of women and men, of America and the world.

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



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, 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.

For October: First half of the book only, second half next month.

UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS



Auction in Action!
'Toast to Compost' at Ray and Debra's— tickets were an item in the 2019 Auction!

DONATION DRIVE AND SERVICE PROJECT: MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN IN THE YAKIMA VALLEY!

Did you know that many homeless women have little or no access to menstrual products? No public program provides tampons, pads, or panty liners. Homeless and housing insecure women might use toilet paper or other unhealth or unsafe materials. This not only can be embarrassing, but can lead to reproductive or urinary tract infections. You can help!

UUCY's first Faith Formation Multi-Age Social Action Project is to collect, package, and distribute menstrual products for homeless women in Yakima. You can purchase tampons, pads, panty liners, quart zip-lock bags, or small hand sanitizers or wipes and drop them in the FF donation box in the church office by October 18. Or, you can write a check made out to UUCY, noted Faith Formation social action, by Tuesday October 15th so that supplies can be purchased in bulk.

Everyone is invited to help assemble the donations into bags on October 20th at 5:30. We will have a short in-gathering with a chalice

lighting, a song, and a statement about how this project is related to our personal faith or understanding of Unitarian Universalism. Unless otherwise noted, there is no food or drink at Faith Formation events.



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

FAITH FORMATION

Jean Gonzales
Kathy Lambert

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
<i>Trustee</i>	Carole Sahlstrand	cjsahl@q.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Merrill Thomsen	methomsen1945@me.com
<i>Trustee</i>	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