

UniFire

December 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, December 1st

First Sunday Breakfast: Awe

Experience the wonder of life through story in this relaxed, but meaningful introduction to "awe," our theme for December, the traditional month of miracles.

Presented by Rosemary Saul.

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Sunday, December 8th

What Does It Mean To Be A People of Awe?

Our Unitarian Universalist Living Tradition identifies as a source for our spiritual renewal and connection with life the "Direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder..." In today's service Susan Kaphammer will invite us to reflect on efforts and rewards of traveling through the world with amazement.

Greeter: Volunteer Needed Host: Volunteer Needed

Sunday, December 15th

The Forgiving Mirror

In this season in which many of us feel the burden of high expectations, our Minister will explore that form of forgiveness that is often most elusive—forgiving ourselves.

Greeter: Volunteer Needed Host: Volunteer Needed

Sunday, December 22nd

Winter Solstice Celebration

On this Winter Solstice day, we'll have Coffee and Conversation at our regular morning time of 10:00 a.m. and then gather again at 5:00 p.m. for a celebration of the darkest time of year — complete with candles to illuminate the dark space. We'll also create some noise to be heard in the dark, so feel free to bring drums or other instruments.

Greeter: Volunteer Needed Host: Volunteer Needed

Sunday, December 29th

Sharing Awe and Wonder

A congregational participation service of sharing.

Greeter: Volunteer Needed Host: Volunteer Needed

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

The end of the year tends to be a good time for movies. Big movies, movies that matter. It’s the time when the major studios set aside many of those formulaic blockbusters based on cartoon superheroes and emphasize films instead that have depth and meaning.

There are at least two such films playing now, as I write this just before Thanksgiving. One is “Harriet” and the other is “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.” Both are historical biopics based on the lives of real people: in the first one, Harriet Tubman, the famed liberator on the Underground Railroad that freed hundreds of slaves in the mid-nineteenth century; the second on Fred Rogers, the memorable icon of children’s television for a generation or more. I think these two films being released in close proximity is interesting.

As I write this, I’ve seen “Harriet” but not “A Beautiful Day...” yet, though I’m hoping to see that too, hopefully soon. (I also have a teenager at home who is waaaaayyy more excited about the new “Frozen” movie, which sort of disproves my assertion in the first paragraph above. Oh, well.) I was very pleased with “Harriet,” and heartily recommend it to anyone with an interest in history and who might be able to be inspired by the story of this remarkable woman.

What I find interesting about comparing these two movies, is that they both tell the story of an exceptional person. In “Harriet,” the exceptional person is portrayed as determined, headstrong, not afraid of conflict, and even militant in her quest for freedom for herself, her family, and her people. Fred Rogers, on the other hand, is generally seen as exceptional for having very different qualities: compassionate, gentle, and always seeking out the best in others. I think both of these “exceptional” people were indeed exceptional in their own ways, but I think it is especially telling that Ms. Tubman displayed these qualities as a woman of color in a culture in which women of color are expected to be docile and obedient. Conversely, Fred Rogers was seen as exceptional for being such a gentle and caring man, in a culture in which white men are expected to prove their worth by being aggressive and dominating. I don’t want to imply that Fred Rogers was not headstrong and determined in his own way, but I think it is telling that the qualities that makes both these heroes “exceptional” differs at least in part by their respective identities.

It reminds me of a line from a Marge Piercy poem that is in our hymnal: “The women must learn to dare to speak/The men must learn to bother to listen.”

May we take from both of these stories of exceptional people some insight on how we might break our molds and be exceptional too.

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')*

Faith in Action!

Children of all ages and adults came together for the Faith in Action group to make fleece scarves for those in need. The scarves will be donated to Camp Hope. Join us the third Sunday of every month at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall for a short in-gathering and social action project.

December 15th Faith in Action will prepare "busy bags" with paper, crayons, and markers for children (or anyone who wants to use one). Please save light weight cardboard, such as the backing from paper tablets, that can be used under the drawing paper. Donations can be left at the church office. All are welcome at the Faith in Action project. Contact Jean Gonzales or leave a message at the church office at 453-8448 if you have any questions.



Miles, Yalisha, Ansel, Rufus, Maren, Adlai, and Rosemary work together on cozy fleece scarves, complete with a personal note for each one!



UUCY FAITH FORMATION

Adult Religious Education at UUCY continues to bring people together to support one another in spiritual growth and faith development in a way that is both challenging and joyful! In keeping with changing terminology, Religious Education at UUCY is now being termed, Faith Formation.

SOUL MATTERS Offers Discussion and Learning

Held the first Sunday of each month from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Ivy Room, our *Soul Matters* series offers UUCY members and friends the opportunity to reflect, discuss and learn together the meanings of spiritual concepts and how we might integrate them into our lives.

Upcoming Sessions:

- December 1: Awe: What is sacred? Traveling through the world with amazement. Link to [Awe Resource Packet](https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/uploads/9/4/5/0/94501751/sm_2019-12_sg_awe.pdf): https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/uploads/9/4/5/0/94501751/sm_2019-12_sg_awe.pdf
- January 5: Integrity: What is my path? Living from the inside out. Link to [Integrity Resource Packet](https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/uploads/9/4/5/0/94501751/sm_2020-01_sg_integrity.pdf): https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/uploads/9/4/5/0/94501751/sm_2020-01_sg_integrity.pdf

The links to online resources provide for the exploration of the monthly theme. Readings and questions will introduce the theme and prompt reflection and discussion. We will be challenged to think about how the topic applies to our daily living. Because efforts to embody spiritual values in our lives requires more than intellectual engagement, “spiritual exercises” will guide experiential engagement with the theme. If you prefer a hard copy, please talk to or leave a message for Susan Kaphammer at the church office. Your engagement at our session may be enhanced by consideration of these materials before the session, but this is not required.

While consistent participation is encouraged, each session can stand alone and anyone interested is encouraged to attend any session.

REMEMBER: NEW TIME!

**FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
11:30 AM TO 1 PM IN THE IVY ROOM**

UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, December 15th, 11:15 a.m.

Purpose of meeting: Presentation of Report from the Board of Trustees; Congregational discussion of options regarding UUCY's current church building. There will be no vote at this meeting— this is an opportunity to share information, discuss, and ask questions.

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of report by Board of Trustees
3. Discussion and Q & A

January 2020 Circle Supper

Mark your calendar now for the next Circle Supper on **Saturday January 11th**. Circle suppers are planned potlucks for small groups of members and friends. Hosts set the time to meet and suggest a menu. Emilee Solomon is inviting guests to her lovely lakeside home at Zillah for a 1:00 dinner. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall to host your own dinner or be a guest. You also can text or email Jean Gonzales or leave a message at the church office at 453-8448 by January 6th to let her know you want to attend. She will contact hosts with a list of their guests.



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!

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 Saturday, December 14th at 12 noon:
The Walking Drum**

UUCY BOOK CLUBS

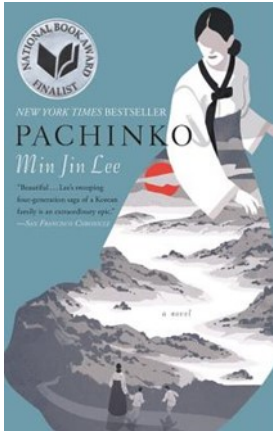
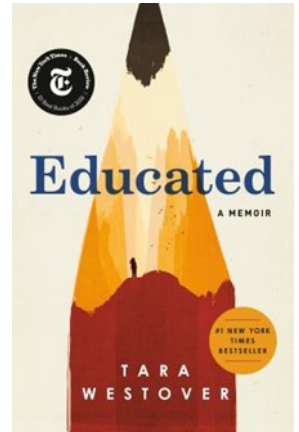
Stay Calm, and READ On!

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. 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.

January 14, 2020: *Educated* by Tara Westover

Raised largely 'off the grid' in rural Idaho - without school, doctor visits, a birth certificate, or even a family consensus on the date of her birth - Tara nevertheless decides she wants to go to college. This is a story in two parts: First, Tara's childhood working in a dangerous scrapyard alongside her six siblings, her survivalist father, and her mother, a conflicted but talented midwife and healer, while fearing Y2K and the influence of the secular world; then, her departure from her mountain home to receive an education.

Both halves of her story are equally fascinating. *Educated* is a testament to Tara's brilliance and tenacity, a bittersweet rendering of how family relationships can be cruel or life-saving, and a truly great read from the first page to the last.



March 10, 2020: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

PACHINKO follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them all. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a young tubercular minister offers to marry and bring her to Japan. So begins a sweeping saga of an exceptional family in exile from its homeland and caught in the indifferent arc of history. Through desperate struggles and hard-won triumphs, its members are bound together by deep roots as they face enduring questions of faith, family, and identity.

May 12, 2020: *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: Humanity has conquered all those things and has even conquered death. Now *Scythes* are the only ones who can end life, and they are commanded to do so in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a *scythe*, a role that neither wants. These teens must master the "art" of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

"Elegant and elegiac, brooding but imbued with gallows humor, Shusterman's dark tale thrusts realistic, likeable teens into a surreal situation and raises deep philosophic questions. A thoughtful and thrilling story of life, death, and meaning." — Kirkus Reviews



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

UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS

Chalice Circle— New Sessions Start November 6th

Following a successful initial run, Emilee Solomon and Gean Dindia have organized another six session series of Chalice Circle, and all are welcome. Chalice Circles are small group meetings with the goal of deepening and broadening person spiritual growth, so consistent participation is vital to group cohesion. If you would like to participate, call Emilee at 509.961-3521 or Gean at 206-459-9602.

Chalice Circle Dates

All meetings are on Wednesdays at 5 pm in the Ann Ingham Room at UUCY

November 6th & 20th
December 4th & 18th
January 8th & 22nd



Our traditional Soup and Bread Luncheon was a delightful social event, and the Henry Beauchamp Center will appreciate the donations!

#GIVING TUESDAY

Don't forget about UUCY on #GivingTuesday, December 3! We count on the generosity of our supporters all year long, and especially appreciate it when they (you!) can give a little extra at this time of year -- a season of gratitude and sharing. You can make a donation [online](#), or mail a check to UUCY!

LOCAL SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENTS

Compiled by the UUCY Social Justice Team

Recurring Events:

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

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

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
Susan Kaphammer

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