

UniFire

March 2021

*Monthly Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima*

*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

How to 'ZOOM' to UUCY Sunday Services and Activities!

Anyone with a computer, tablet, smart phone or regular phone can join for free (except with regular phone you won't see everyone, but you can hear and speak.)

In order to maintain the security and sanctity of our online meetings, the 'Zoom' links will only be available via our Weekly Update email. If you are not already on our email list, please contact Genevieve at admin@uucyakima.org and she will be happy to help.

Sunday, March 7th:

Sunday Services on Zoom:

The New Normal

Pandemics are life-threatening events that occur more frequently than we wish to admit. Each time we focus on the immediate, the day-to-day, and try to muddle through and eventually "get back to normal."

However, we never get back to normal since these traumatic episodes alter us and our world in ways we usually choose to ignore or defy. They frequently accelerate change and transform things in ways we never anticipated.

This service is not a sermon but an examination of how the zeitgeist has changed and how we have been changed. It is an inward journey of self examination and perhaps discovery. Please participate.

Presented by Art Busch.

Sunday, March 14th, 10:00 am:

Sunday Services on Zoom:

UU Poetry Extravaganza!

At least six UU poets will share some of their original work. And any closet poets attending the Zoom meeting can pull out an original work or two to share after the formal service ends.

Presented and organized by Chuck Forster with guest poets.

Sunday, March 21st 10:00 am:

Sunday Services on Zoom:

What Does It Mean To Be A People of Commitment?

Debra Kroon presents a timely meditation and presentation from the Soul Matter Adult RE curricula.

Sunday, March 28th, 10:00 am:

Tune-In Together:

We will join together in community as we view another UU service.

Watch your Weekly Update email for more information!

UUCY President's Report

Department of good news, bad news...

The bad news is that Merrill Thomsen has decided to resign as chairperson and a member of the Sunday Services Committee. This committee serves an important, even essential purpose, particularly while we are between ministers and are being lay led. Merrill has worked hard as the leader of the committee, and she will be missed.

The good news is that Linda King has agreed to assume the chairperson position on the committee. Thanks Linda! She is already a committee member, and has a lot of experience in many other church leadership positions, so I'm confident that she'll do the job well.

Is it time yet?

Now that we're in Phase 2 in Yakima County, we are permitted to resume indoor religious services if we follow social distancing rules, such as wearing masks and maintaining six foot spacing (not difficult in our sanctuary). Also, it looks like nearly all of us will be fully vaccinated by the end of March. *Therefore, I think we should resume regular indoor services, starting in April.*

This topic will be discussed at the upcoming Sunday Service Committee meeting (March 9) and the Trustees meeting (March 11). If you have an opinion one way or the other please share it with me – I like getting first hand info from church members – even if they don't agree with me!

Is it time yet, part 2?

The Trustees will be discussing whether we should resume an active search for a new minister. Thoughts? Please let me know what you're thinking.

Marketing our building

This is a great time to be selling a house in Yakima – there is a shortage of houses and apartments. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for “commercial” properties (like our church building.) There are lots of vacant commercial buildings in town. Even so, our building is attracting considerable interest from would-be buyers. We've had some offers, but none that the Trustees have considered good enough. We'll keep you posted.

Bill

Wsjacobs99@aol.com

509-945-0790

*Bill Jacobs is the President of the UUCY Board of Trustees for 2020-2022, and can be reached for discussion and comments at any time.
Reach out to the office for his contact information.*

March 2021 Children's Faith Formation-Holy Troublemakers

- ◆ March 7--Love Doesn't Run Away: Holy Troublemakers
Audrey Nell Edward and Jackie Robinson
- ◆ March 14--Be Open to Change--Mae Jemison: Doctor, Engineer, and First African American astronaut
- ◆ March 21--Let Conscience Guide You--Muhammed Ali:
Standing up for your beliefs
- ◆ March 28--Cooperation Means Freedom--Moses, Miriam, and Aaron

Children's Faith Formation on Zoom– Every Sunday at 5:00 pm

Join the Holy Troublemakers in the spirit of John Lewis' "good trouble."
Weaving Unitarian Universalist values with social justice traditions of many
lands, times, and religious traditions.

Watch the Weekly Update for your Zoom invitation.

‘ZOOM’ To UUCY Wednesday Coffee!

YES, Wednesday morning coffee is still on, you'll just have to provide your own beverage and chair! Join via Zoom– the link is in every Weekly Update, and all are welcome to join.

Join the UU Quilting and Crafting Group for Virtual Show & Tell!

Virtual UUQCG carries on, and you are invited to join them for their next ‘Show and Tell’! Contact Rosemary Saul for the Zoom link if needed, all are welcome, and they look forward to seeing you there.

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 27th

UUCY SOCIAL JUSTICE: Feeding Young Adults Through Rod's House, Donations Needed!

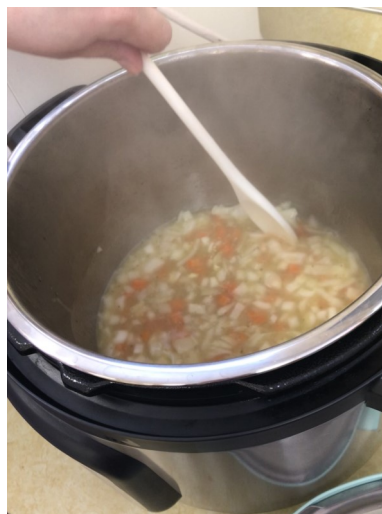
Lunches and Dinners and Snacks, Oh My!

Thanks to our team of dedicated volunteers and just a few generous donors, UUCY has already served over a hundred sack lunches to guests of Rod's House! We have also provided a hot pasta dinner cooked by our wonderful volunteers Trista and Amanda—



thankfully, our large kitchen provided plenty of space for social distancing while they worked their magic with Instant Pots! Thank you to everyone who has already donated their time and resources to this important cause, please reach out to Bill Jacobs at any time if you'd like to get involved. Donations can be made directly to UUCY, please clearly mark as 'Rod's House meals'. (Photo next page: Local store 'Big Lots' has been kind enough to donate their almost expired snack goods, which are then re-

packaged for distribution by our volunteers, then give to guests of Rod's House.)



UUCY SOCIAL JUSTICE:

Five Simple Social Justice Actions From Your UUCY SJ Team

- 1) If you do not need your entire stimulus check, please consider donating a portion of it to Justice Housing Yakima as they start the second phase of the homeless village project- preparing the land and building the small homes. Send to Justice Housing Yakima, P.O. Box 1097, Yakima, WA 98907.
- 2) As we get vaccinated, start personal contact with a close neighbor, still wearing masks and keeping six feet of distance. Say hello, leave a small gift or treat, offer help- especially how to get vaccinated.
- 3) Support Rod's House Meal Program of lunches and dinners for 25 residents. Join the UU meal crews or send a check to our office to help defray the cost of this effort- about \$60 each time. Please clearly mark your donation as 'Rod's House Meals'.
- 4) Continue sending 'Share the Plate' donation for Planned Parenthood and La Casa Hogar. This supports their efforts to provide health options for mothers and citizen classes and voting rights to the undocumented.
- 5) As a climate action, buy and plant a tree or perennial bush for "the generations to come."



Kaylee, Elora, and Kaitlin packaging donations from Big Lots for guests of Rod's House

LET BOOKS TAKE YOU TO VARIOUS TIMES AND PLACES!

For our discussion at **6 PM on March 9**, we accompany a young man finding his way with his wits and his fiddle in post-Civil War Texas. Then you are invited to take your mind and heart to modern-day Turkey with a woman finding the light of friendship in a dark world.

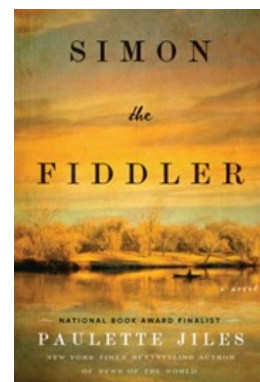
Compound your enjoyment of these books by sharing your thoughts at our Zoom discussions **the second Tuesday of every-other month**. As always, everyone is invited to tune in to the Zoom Book Club and offer thoughts, or just listen even if you have not read the current title.

Books selected are available from Yakima Valley Libraries, often in hardcopy and electronic versions. They are also out in paperback and available through Inklings Bookshop at a "Book Club Member" discount. For instructions to connect to our Zoom gathering, watch your **email for the UUCY Weekly Update sent the Thursday prior to our discussion**.

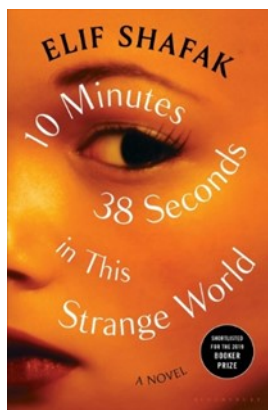
March 9, 2021: *Simon the Fiddler* by Paulette Jiles

Set at the end of the Civil War, this novel follows Simon, an itinerant fiddle player trying to make a living and hoping for a future with Doris, the charming young Irish lass who is indentured for domestic help.

"The reader is treated to a kind of alchemy on the page when character, setting and song converge at all the right notes, generating an authentic humanity that is worth remembering and celebrating." — *New York Times*



May 11, 2021: *10 Minutes, 38 Seconds In This Strange World* by Elif Shafak



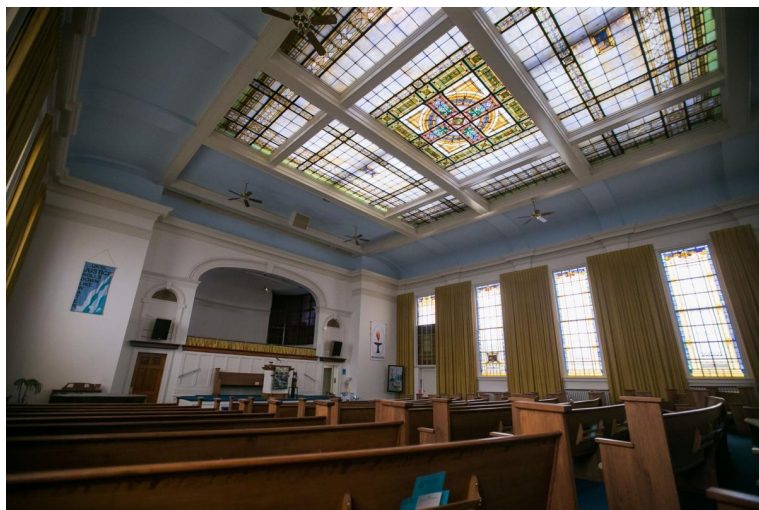
Tequila Leila has been murdered. Her heart has stopped beating but her brain is still active—for 10 minutes 38 seconds. While the Turkish sun rises and her friends sleep soundly nearby, she remembers her life—and the lives of others, outcasts like her.

Tequila's memories bring us back to her childhood in the provinces, a highly oppressive milieu with religion and traditions, with two mothers and an increasingly authoritarian father. Escaping to Istanbul, Leila finds a home in the city's historic Street of Brothels. This is a dark, violent world, but Leila is tough and open to beauty, light, and the essential bonds of friendship. It is her chosen family who brings her story to a buoyant and breathtaking conclusion.

"Shafak writes with vision, bravery and compassion . . . a stunning portrait of a city, a society, a small community and a single soul." - *The New York Times Book Review*.

Shortlisted for the 2019 Booker Prize. Named a Best Book of the Year by Bookpage, NPR, Washington Post, and The Economist.

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



Fabulous photo of our Sanctuary by
Amanda Roy for the Yakima Herald
Republic

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES
Chair: Linda King
Susan Kaphammer
Debra Kroon
Susan Gallegos

AUCTION
Nancy Born
FAITH FORMATION
Jean Gonzales
Susan Kaphammer
Yalisha Case

SOCIAL JUSTICE
Phil Dindia
Carole Sahlstrand
FINANCE
Chair: Janis Luvaas
Bill Jacobs

Your 2020 to 2021 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

<i>Board President</i>	Bill Jacobs	wsjacobs99@aol.com
<i>Board Vice Pres.</i>	Ray Yates	raycyates@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Phil Dindia	gpdindia@yahoo.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Jack Lambert	johnmlam@msn.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Carole Sahlstrand	cjsahl@q.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Mary Brunelle	brufam@q.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Nancy Born	nancyjborn@gmail.com

UUCY OFFICE: 225 N. 2nd St, Yakima, WA 98901 • uucyakima.org
Congregational Administrator– Genevieve Gonzales
509-453-8448, admin@uucyakima.org