

# UniFire

## April 2021

*Monthly Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima*

*We celebrate community and  
promote spirituality,  
justice, responsibility,  
and compassion.*

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### 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](mailto:admin@uucyakima.org) and she will be happy to help.

#### *Sunday, April 4th:*

#### *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, April 11th, 10:00 am:*

#### *Sunday Services on Zoom:*

#### **Mystery and Illusion; Fake News, Information Overload, and Zoroastrianism**

Presented by Andrew Whitmont

#### *Sunday, April 18th 10:00 am:*

#### *Sunday Services on Zoom:*

#### **What Does It Mean To Be A People of Becoming?**

We are reminded in our Unitarian Universalist Principles that we are seekers engaged in our own unique spiritual journeys -- the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. This process of "becoming" isn't just about moving into our true selves; it is also about untangling from old selves. How might we recognize and shed the identities and journeys that aren't truly ours? And how do we find our new ways of being? Susan Kaphammer shares thoughts drawn from the resources in the Soul Matters series.

#### *Sunday, April 25th, 10:00 am:*

#### *Tune-In Together:*

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

*Watch your Weekly Update email for more information!*

# UUCY President's Report

Greetings to all you members and friends of UUCY!

As you can imagine, the upcoming sale of our building and the move to other quarters has been the focus of our energy for the past month.

## *To summarize:*

- The new owners will be a relatively new church in Yakima -- St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. They intend to use the original building as their church, and to use the annex for a new elementary school.
- The sale will become final on or before April 24 when the new owners approve the purchase based on satisfying the "feasibility contingencies." (This includes City approval of intended use, building inspection, etc.)
- Closing will then take place on or before June 1, and we must be completely out of the building by that date.

## *In order to meet the June 1 deadline we must:*

1. Find and rent space to accommodate our needs for the next year; and
2. Identify what stuff we want to take with us and pack it up for moving.

## *You can help!*

Andrew Whitmont is coordinating the effort to find new space; if you see something that looks interesting, please follow up with him. He has a form, which he will be happy to share with you, that lists all the information he needs for each potential space.

We have already started the process of sorting our possessions, and will soon start packing. If you can help with this, please contact someone on our packing team: Susan Kaphammer, Jean Gonzales, Carole Sahlstrand, Merrill Thomsen and Mary Brunelle.

Bill  
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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.*

## Children's Faith Formation ~ April 2021

The Children and Families of UUCY celebrate spring with joy, hope, and kindness. Join the group Sunday evenings at 5:00 over Zoom. The children have time every session for sharing with each other, learning through stories and song, and creating something related to the theme. Check the Weekly Update or send an email to the church for your Zoom invitation.

**April 4th:** There is no Zoom session scheduled. Christians celebrate Easter on this Sunday. Unitarian Universalists may want to celebrate the secular aspects of Easter such as the annual resurrection of life through plants, flowers, and trees or coloring eggs. Adults can also take this holiday as an opportunity to share about their personal beliefs and be open to questions children may have about the beliefs of others.

**April 11th:** National Poetry Month: Planting seeds of inspiration. We'll build and plant imaginative mini gardens. A craft packet for the garden will be delivered for every child/youth who plans to participate.

**April 18th:** Earth Day Planting seeds of hope. We'll plant seeds to grow edible flowers.

**April 25th:** National Superhero Day Planting seeds of kindness. We'll create a fun surprise.

### **'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, April 24th*

## BOOK CLUB GLIMPSES THE SEEDY SIDE OF ISTANBUL

Join fellow readers at **6 PM on May 11**, for the discussion of our next read, ***10 Minutes, 38 Seconds In This Strange World*** by **Elif Shafak**. The book portrays the difficult life and tragic death of Tequila Leila. But while the premise seems grim, Leila's life is filled with spirit, tenacity, loyalty and hope that inspire her diverse friends and will leave the reader thankful for having met her.

Book Club meets **the second Tuesday of every-other month**. As always, everyone is invited to tune in to the Zoom discussion 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.**

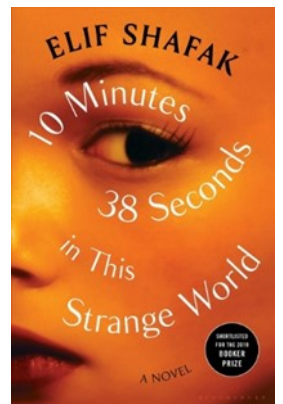
**May 11, 2021:** [\*10 Minutes, 38 Seconds In This Strange World\*](#) by Elif Shafak

[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.

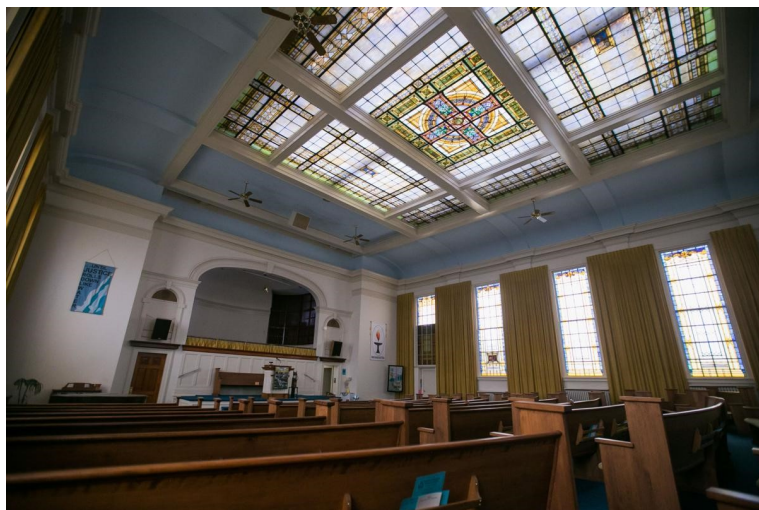
Tequila's memories bring us back to her childhood in the provinces, a highly oppressive milieu with religion and traditions, with two mothers and an increasingly authoritarian father. Escaping to Istanbul, Leila finds a home in the city's historic Street of Brothels. This is a dark, violent world, but 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

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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:

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