

UniFire

July 2021

*Monthly Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima*

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

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Beginning July 11 we will be holding services in person at our new address (listed above and on our website). Services start at 10 AM. Masks will be provided.

July 4 – No Service

July 11 – Soul Matters: What Does It Mean To Be A People of Play?

“We all are playing. Playing it up, playing it down, trying to play fair. Playing for keeps, playing favorites, playing it safe, sometimes too safe. He plays hardball; They’re playing house; I’m playing it by ear, or at least learning to play it by ear. She’s tired of playing second fiddle; He’s playing right into their hands. Please God, can’t we all just throw out the playbook and start again? Sometimes we’re just played out; it’s not always bad to play possum.” (Rev. Scott Taylor)

Welcome to the month of play. May we all take it seriously! Susan Kaphammer offers messages drawn from resources in the Soul Matters series... and invites you to play!

July 18 – Lessons from Coronaville

Join in this reflection service led by Linda King. Learn and share coping strategies, epiphanies, joys and sorrows and perhaps even a bit of humor...

July 25 – Tune in Together

Provided by Ulla and Andrew Whitmont. Join All Souls Church in New York City for a message of resilience and commitment. Discussion following.

UUCY President's Report

This year I attended General Assembly, the UUA's annual conference, which just ended this past Sunday. For the second year in a row, the conference was a "virtual" one. All the main, interactive sessions were live-streamed or conducted via Zoom. Kudos to the tech team that put it together – things went off with very few glitches!

A lot of the presentations of particular interest to us (example: "The Post Pandemic Small Congregation") are in the on-demand library so anyone who registered for the conference can view them as many times as they want at their leisure, and I intend to do just that.

I did attend most of the business sessions, and as a UUCY delegate, I voted what I thought would be in UUCY's best interests. (There was actually a contested Board position. Imagine that!) But the highlight of the conference for me was the Ware Lecture, which featured Stacy Abrams and Desmond Meade. These two distinguished individuals have had an enormous impact on extending voting rights to all Americans.

Stacy Abrams, of course, is given the lion's share of the credit for delivering 2 senators and 16 electoral votes for the Democrats from Georgia, and she talked about the lessons she learned along the way that sustained her efforts to get out the vote, particularly among historically marginalized communities. Desmond Meade, who is not quite as well known as Stacy, was president of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, which spearheaded the successful passage by ballot initiative of Amendment 4 in Florida a few years ago, restoring voting rights to those people previously convicted of felonies. (Desmond prefers to call these folks "returning citizens," not felons – and he is one himself.)

What impressed me most about Stacy and Desmond was their commitment to empowering people to make things better. In contrast, so much of the UUA's current focus lacks clear goals (for example, "dismantle white supremacy culture"), and seems designed to instill a sense of victimization among some folks, and a sense of guilt among others. Neither of which is productive, if you ask me. I prefer agents of change, like Stacy and Desmond, who take action to make positive change, no matter how small, as opposed to ideologues who come up with grandiose theories of why everything sucks.

What do you think?

Bill

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.

The Children's Faith Formation is taking a break for the summer. Keep an eye on the Weekly Update to find out when they will resume activities!

UUCY Wednesday Coffee: In Person Starting July 7th!

(by Debra Kroon)

What is the UUCY Coffee Chat? For some time, members of our UUCY community and friends have enjoyed getting together on Wednesday mornings at 9 AM at a local coffee shop to drink coffee liberally.

When the pandemic hit, the group moved to the Zoom online format and we have been enjoying Wednesday mornings together ever since. Now with recovery progress, vaccinations and improved protocols, we believe we are ready to move back to in-person coffee drinking liberally, with a slight twist. We discussed this as a group and have decided to try meeting in person on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays of the month, while continuing on Zoom for the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

The plan is to start in person in July on the first Wednesday, July 7. The planned location is the Caffe' 11th Avenue, which is located at 11th Avenue and Yakima Avenue. Phil and Gean Dindia have made reservations there to ensure we are complying with COVID-19 regulations.

I'll continue to send the reminders for the 2nd and 4th Zoom chats. If you have questions about accessing it via Zoom, please reach out to Debra Kroon.

Growing the Flame: Chalice Lighters

Being a Chalice Lighter brings you the joy of watching your modest \$20 contribution multiply to a grant of \$12,000 or more. Each grant supports a specific project enabling the growth of our liberal religion in the Pacific Northwest. By being a Chalice Lighter, you will also help your own congregation qualify for a Chalice Lighter grant. Find out more in the [brochure](#) or visit the page at pnwduua.org.

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: July 24th

Next Book Club Meeting In-Person, July 13

Our UUCY Book Club meets regularly the second Tuesday of every other month for to discuss our thoughts and reactions to our chosen book. On Tuesday, July 13 at 6 PM we will meet *In-Person* (hooray!) at our new UUCY location, 407 N. 1st Street in Yakima. Finger food and wine may be on the agenda as well as our good conversation and fine fellowship. All UUCY members and friends are invited.

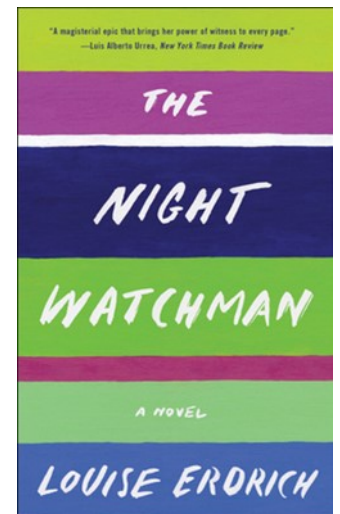
Books selected are available from Yakima Valley Libraries, often in hardcopy and electronic versions. They are also out in paperback and available through Inklings Bookshop at a “Book Club Member” discount.

July 13, 2021: *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich

It is 1953. Thomas Wazhushk is the night watchman at the first factory to open near the Turtle Mountain Reservation in rural North Dakota. As a prominent Chippewa Council member, he is also trying to understand what the US Government calls an 'emancipation' bill; but that instead threatens the rights of Native Americans to their land, their very identity. How can he fight this betrayal?

Pixie - 'Patrice' - Paranteau has no desire to wear herself down on a husband and kids. She works at the factory, earning barely enough to support her mother and brother, let alone her alcoholic father who sometimes returns home to bully her for money. But Patrice needs every penny if she's ever going to get to Minnesota to find her missing sister Vera.

In *The Night Watchman* multi-award winning author Louise Erdrich weaves together a story of past and future generations, of preservation and progress. She grapples with *the* worst and best impulses of human nature, illuminating *the* loves and lives, desires and ambitions of her characters with compassion, wit and intelligence.



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

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Debra Kroon
Susan Gallegos

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FAITH FORMATION

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