

UniFire

December 2021

*Monthly Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima*

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

407 N 1st St, Ste 1, Yakima, WA 98901
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Unless otherwise noted, UUCY services will be held **in person** at 407 N. 1st St. on Sundays at 10 a.m. Following CDC guidelines, proof of COVID vaccination will be required for entry to in person services, and masks must be worn at all times within the building.

December 5 – Choosing Joy - Part 2

This time of year we are urged to feel and spread joy, but these superficial messages are often in the service of merchandising. In a follow-up to our service of November 21, Susan Kaphammer invites you to take a deeper look at ordinary joy and joy that changes the world, at joy in the midst of dark times and the dance between worry and joy. Let's consider that, "Maybe joy opens us / as much as we open to it." (*Soul Matters*)

December 12 – Mythology of the Future - Part 3

Join us for this talk by member Andrew Whitmont, who has previously spoken about the history of mythological symbolism across the historical ages. In this talk he will share his ideas regarding the mythology we see emerging as the iron age recedes and the nuclear electronic age unfolds, an age of individual empowerment and the collapse of existing social structures, including religions.

December 19 – Tune in Together - Exploring the Wider UU Community (on Zoom)

Please tune in for this dynamic service featuring a message from another UU community. Several options are being considered. Stay tuned to your weekly updates for final details and title. Discussion following.

December 26 – No Service

In this month of holidays and holy days for many traditions, enjoy this time with your friends and family. We'll meet again in the New Year.

UUCY President's Report — “For What It's Worth”

35 years ago Jared Diamond wrote an article for *Scientific American* entitled “The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race.” He was referring to the so-called agricultural revolution, during which agriculturally-based societies supplanted most hunter-gather cultures.

Although he argued his case well by offering lots of evidence, I don't agree with him. Since then, we've seen the invention of “Social Media” – and I think that is proving to be our biggest mistake. Even though I do log on to Facebook, mostly to keep up with news from those family and friends whom I don't see regularly, the experience of looking through the posts is upsetting. It seems to promote a world view that denies the humanity of those you don't agree with, especially in politics. I've been guilty of posts that do this, too, so naturally I feel there is something about social media that is intrinsically evil!

It reminds me of a verse from Stephen Stills' “protest” song of 55 years ago, entitled “For What It's Worth.” It was a Top 40 Hit for Buffalo Springfield, and the verse I'm thinking of goes like this:

What a field day for the heat
A thousand people in the street
Singing songs and carrying signs
Mostly saying, "hooray for our side"

It seems to me that social media promotes “Hooray for our side” thinking!

In faith,
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.



UUCY Mini Mercado

A couple of items from the November Mini Mercado are already sold, so if you want to be the lucky recipient of anything still on offer, act now! There are a few seats left at the Dindias' Seven Fish Dinner in January and the houseplant is still available.

The December Mini Mercado is now in the works and you'll want to be ready to spring when it comes out, or if you want to donate something for it, that would be most welcome, too!

Email uucyauction@gmail.com to either purchase or donate. Thank you!

UUA Regional Assembly

PWR Regional Assembly is that inspirational, radically inclusive, beyond-the-congregation UU community we've missed. February 4-6, 2022, we can engage fully, wherever we are. Whether onsite in San Diego, or online in the comfort of our own homes, we will have opportunities for connection in small groups, inspirational worship, transformative learning, and just plain community fun.

Join in the community!



32nd Annual Christmas Dinner at the Henry Beauchamp Community Center - Donations Requested!

This year's Annual Christmas Celebration at the Community Center – set for **Friday, December 17, 2021**– is expected to draw more than 3,500 guests! Over the years, the holiday event has been the highlight for many families in the Yakima Community. Both the dinner and gifts for kids are free—and for many families this may be the only holiday celebration they will have.

To donate to this worthy cause, you can make out a check (any amount; every dollar helps!) to the Henry Beauchamp Community Center and mail to:

Henry Beauchamp Community Center c/o Adrienne Garner
1211 South Seventh Street
Yakima, WA 98901

UUCY Wednesday Coffee On Zoom

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 a.m. at a local coffee shop to drink coffee liberally. They are currently meeting on Zoom; check the weekly update or reach out to the office for a link.



Photo by John Anvik (@redviking509 / Unsplash)

Knit Night at UUCY

The Eweknits group meets weekly to knit at UUCY on Tuesday nights from 5-7 p.m. Proof of vaccination and masks are required. All are welcome! Contact Nancy Born for more information.

UU Quilting & Crafting Group

The quilting group gathers in person at the church on the fourth Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. Proof of vaccination and masks are required. All crafty types are welcome! Contact Rosemary Saul for more information.

The group will NOT be meeting in December; their next gathering will be January 22.

BOOKS CHOSEN TO BEGIN A NEW YEAR OF READING

“I have always imagined paradise will be a kind of library.” – Jorge Luis Borges

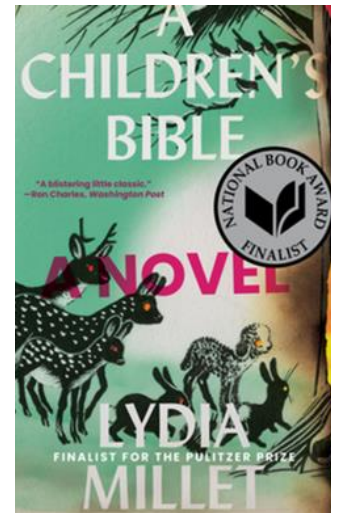
Share the “paradise” of reading with the UUCY Book Club! Drop in by Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every other month to join the chat about our current read. Check your Thursday update for the Zoom link.

Titles 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.

January 11, 2022: *A Children's Bible: A Novel* by Lydia Millet

A Children's Bible follows a group of twelve eerily mature children on a forced vacation with their families at a sprawling lakeside mansion. The age-old war between kids and their parents, children and adults, is reimagined through the lens of Biblical devastation. The result is harrowing and, in unexpected moments, hilarious. Millet has created a story that feels both folkloric and brand new, a tale as much about environmental cataclysm as it is about fighting for the people, things, and ideas that remain right and true, no matter how high the water gets.

“With this slim yet potent book, [Millet] shows it is even possible to coax pleasure and beauty from the uncomfortable work of highlighting unfortunate truths.” — Emily Bobrow - Wall Street Journal

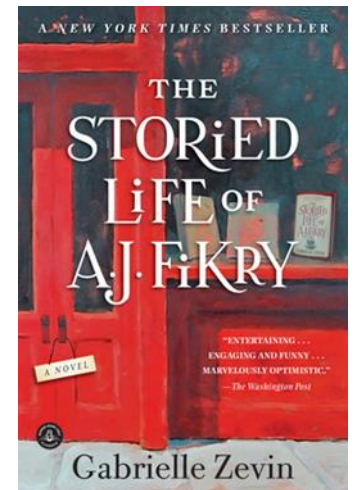


March 8, 2022: *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin

We are not quite novels. We are not quite short stories. In the end, we are collected works.

A.J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. His wife has died; his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history; and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. Slowly but surely, he is isolating himself. Even the books in his store have stopped holding pleasure for him. These days, he can only see them as a sign of a world that is changing too rapidly. But then a mysterious package appears at the bookstore.

“This novel has humor, romance, a touch of suspense, but most of all love— love of books and bookish people and, really, all of humanity in its imperfect glory.” —Eowyn Ivey, author of The Snow Child



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

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

Chair: Linda King
Susan Gallegos
Susan Kaphammer
Debra Kroon
Sunny Sonker
Merrill Thomsen

AUCTION

Nancy Born

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia
Carole Sahlstrand

FAITH FORMATION

Susan Kaphammer

FINANCE

Chair: Janis Luvaas
Bill Jacobs
Merrill Thomsen

Your 2021 to 2022 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

<i>Board President</i>	Bill Jacobs	wsjacobs99@aol.com
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Interim Office Administrator – Hannah Born (hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tues., Thurs., & Fri.)