

UniFire

February 2022

*Monthly Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima*

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

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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.

February 6 – Rod’s House Updates

Mark James, Executive Director of Rod's House, joins us today to share the latest on their new project to build an emergency shelter for youth and young adults at 1017 E Chestnut Avenue. This is an exciting venture that will go a long way in helping and supporting shelter for those experiencing unsafe or unhealthy living conditions.

February 13 – Tune In Together: Fear Not

(This service will be on Zoom; watch your weekly update or contact the office for the link.)
A message from 2000 years ago: Fear not: you can be a beacon of love. Presented by Marlin Lavanhar, from All Souls in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Discussion led by Andrew Whitmont.

February 20 – Widening the Circle

We may find ourselves, particularly in difficult times such as now, wanting to rest within circles of familiarity, safety, and comfort, such as family circles or circles of friends. But are we meant to stay within safe circles? Today's service, based on the Soul Matters resources, challenges us to push beyond what is familiar and comfortable to better know and understand our neighbors, our history, our responsibilities, our compassion, and ourselves.

February 27 – Unitarian Universalism Today

(This service will be on Zoom; watch your weekly update or contact the office for the link.)
Reverend Sarah Schurr is our primary staff contact from the Pacific western region of the UUA. She will speak with us about where our UU faith came from and even more about how it is continuing to evolve today. What is Unitarian Universalism in 2022?

UUCY President's Report

A few Sundays ago (January 16) we at UUCY took a small but important step. Our in-person service, which featured Susan Kaphammer's excellent presentation on "Living with Intention" was attended not only by about 20 people at the church, but was also watched live on Zoom by 3 folks! Granted, this "hybrid" service was plagued with various technical difficulties and shortcomings. Yours truly was the tech host, and my tech skills are (ahem!) not quite up to snuff for the year 2022. But it was a solid starting point, from which we can and will make many improvements. (By the way, we recorded the service on Zoom; if you missed it and would like to view it, send me an email and I will send you the link and passcode to the recording.)

Hybrid services are currently being promoted as a way to allow those who are concerned about exposure to the COVID virus to participate in services while remaining at home. However, I think their value will continue after the COVID threat subsides (which will hopefully occur during my lifetime!) By simultaneously streaming all of our services we will open them up to folks who cannot attend in person for any reason – illness, disability, distance, family obligations, and so forth. It is the wave of the future.

Denise Edwards has already volunteered to work on improving our hybrid services; perhaps other folks could contribute to our efforts, too? Call me if you think you can help.

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: Donations Needed!

Thanks to a generous friend of UUCY, we have several items for the February Mini Mercado, which should go out next Friday, February 4, in plenty of time for Valentine's Day gifts (watch your inbox for it!), BUT please keep your thinking caps on—donations are needed for the March Mini Mercado, up next!

Let us know what you have to offer at uucyauction@gmail.com or call the office at 453-8448. Thank you!

- Your UUCY Auction Team

UUA General Assembly

General Assembly is the annual gathering of the Unitarian Universalist Association; it features a variety of programming to learn, worship, and connect with other UUs. [Click here](#) for more information. This year the in-person location will be Portland, Oregon; there will also be an option for virtual attendance. Currently registration for in-person participation is open; registration for virtual participation will open March 1. [Register here](#) for in-person General Assembly!



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.

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 Karly Santiago (Unsplash)

Knit Night at UUCY

Although currently suspended due to COVID, the Eweknits group ordinarily meets weekly to knit at UUCY on Tuesday nights from 5-7 p.m. 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 next meeting will be February 26.

WHEN IT'S GRAY OUTSIDE, CURL UP INSIDE WITH A BOOK

The UUCY Book Club carries on through the seasons... reveling in "traveling" to various times and places, then gathering on Zoom to share our experiences. Join us at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday of every other month. Check your Thursday update for the Zoom link.

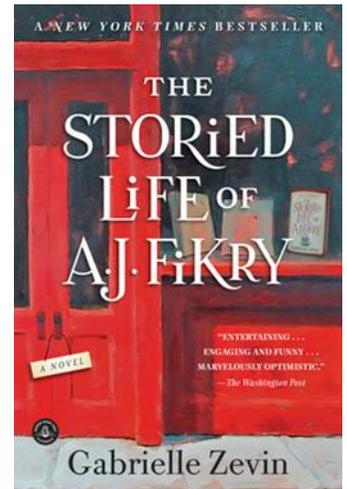
Titles selected are available from Yakima Valley Libraries, often in hardcopy and electronic versions. They are also out in paperback and available through Inklings Bookshop at a "Book Club Member" discount.

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

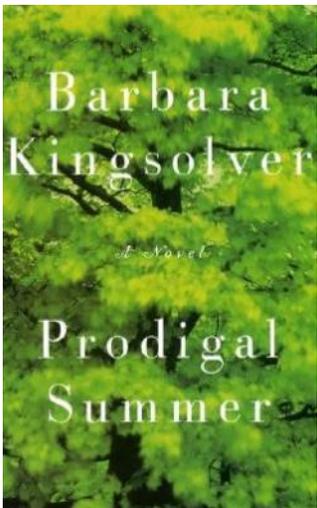
"We are not quite novels. We are not quite short stories. In the end, we are collected works."

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*



May 10, 2022: *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver



I was digging deep into one of my stacks of books and came upon a worn copy of *Prodigal Summer*. I don't even remember where or when I obtained it, likely at a yard sale or thrift store as it was a used copy still unread by me. From the first page I was enthralled and am eager to share the experience with my Book Club friends. I highly recommend reading, or re-reading this 20 year-old story that so engagingly celebrates nature and human nature.

Deanna Wolfe's reclusive life as a wildlife biologist on a Southern Appalachian mountain is thrown a-kilter when Eddie Bondo, a young hunter wanders into her home and her habits. In the valley, Lusa who left city life for her new husband's farm is forced upon her husband's death to discover her place and her relationship with the people and land. Down the road, Garnett and Nannie exchange cranky complaints about how each tends their neighboring farms. The author weaves these stories into a mosaic of living and loving, the connections to one another within the context of our connections to land and nature.

(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:

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UUCY Administrator – Hannah Born (hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tues., Thurs., & Fri.)