

UniFire

June 2022

*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
(509) 453-8448 · uucyakima.org
admin@uucyakima.org

Unless otherwise noted, UUCY services will be held **in person** at 407 N. 1st St. on Sundays at 10 a.m. Proof of COVID vaccination will be required for entry to in person services. Masks are optional.

In-person services are also **livestreamed**! Watch your weekly update for the link; it is also in the reminder email sent on Sunday morning.

June 5 – Mary Oliver: Nature’s Poet — and More

Oliver has the distinction of being the favorite poet of many Unitarian Universalists and was the UUA General Assembly Ware lecturer in 2006. While she had no declared religion, her writings – often related to nature and its adjacent spirituality - speak to those of many faiths and lend themselves to contemplation. Join Cindy Lamb as she shares the poems and thoughts of Pulitzer prize winning poet Mary Oliver.

June 12 – Celebrating Blessings

While acknowledging how easy it is to feel demoralized, daunted and defeated these days, today’s service will remind us of the role of blessings in our lives. It’s not just about widening our view to see the gifts and blessings themselves; it’s about widening our understanding of life. Pointing to blessings repairs our relationship with life, allowing us to see it as generous instead of indifferent or threatening. Susan Kaphammer shares this message drawn from the *Soul Matters* series.

June 19 – Social Justice: What Do We Want To Do?

After a short talk we will divide into small groups to discuss what action is most meaningful to each of us from a list of opportunities in Yakima. Phil Dindia will facilitate this exploration of social justice individually and collectively.

June 26 – Worship at General Assembly (starts 9:30 a.m.!)

Join us virtually for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship.

This service will be livestreamed on the UUA website. Watch your weekly update or visit uua.org for the link.

UUCY President's Report — Lots Happening In June!

First of all, we are holding our Annual Meeting on June 12, immediately following the service. (Both the service and the meeting will be in-person at the church.) I would love to see all of our members at this meeting. In addition to the routine business that must be done every year (approval of budget, trustee elections, etc.) time will be devoted to discussion of the church's future, specifically the questions of a permanent home and professional ministry.

But if you cannot attend in person, please arrange for a proxy to vote in your place. This helps ensure that we will have a quorum so that the necessary business of the church can be conducted. Contact Hannah for help in arranging a proxy.

Also in June we will host the monthly meeting of the Yakima Association of Faith Communities. The YAFC includes in its membership all sorts of faith communities (Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, LDS, Roman Catholic, UU, just to name a few). Although this group varies widely in its creeds, all members are dedicated to social action to make Yakima a better place to live, particularly for its less fortunate folks. The meeting will be held on Friday June 17 at noon. We will be providing a light lunch, and all UUCY members and friends are invited. I hope to see you there.

And, as usual, the UUA is holding its annual General Assembly in June— specifically on June 22 through 26. This year marks a return to a real live get together, which will be in Portland, and some of our members are planning to attend GA in person. It will be a hybrid conference, and some other members (including me) are planning to attend via Zoom. If you're interested, and want more info, please contact Hannah and she can help you.

Last of all, I wanted to give an update on the Share the Plate program. For years now we have donated a quarter of our Sunday plate collections to various local charities. In July, we will calculate the amounts for the year ending June 30 and send checks to our current recipients, Planned Parenthood and Rod's House. Then we will choose new recipients, probably by voting on it at a meeting in September. Suggestions on worthwhile charities are always welcome. Let me know if you have any thoughts on this.

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 Annual Meeting 2022

June 12th, 11:15 a.m.

The 2022 Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 12, in person at the church immediately after the service, which starts at 10 a.m.

All members should attend – if you can't attend in person, please arrange for a proxy to vote in your place. Once you have a proxy arranged, send a request with your name as well as your proxy's; please do this in writing, either by email or a physical note (on paper). Just make sure it gets to the office in some manner!

At this meeting we will elect Trustees and Officers, approve a budget for next year, and conduct other important business. A complete agenda will be in the official Annual Meeting notice, sent out May 27th.

Adopt-A-Highway

First Pick-Up Date: June 4

June 4 is the highway pick up date! The weather is expected to be good that day. Registrants will receive more details by email. Anyone interested in volunteering who is not yet registered for this program, can do so at any time by emailing 11denisis@gmail.com. It is not required that you make it to all of the pick-up dates. The second pick-up date will be determined soon and published in weekly updates and the UniFire.

Faith Action Network's Regional Spring Summit

June 5, 2-4 p.m.

Join FAN for the annual Central Washington Spring Summit. Gather with advocates in Central Washington to celebrate FAN's wins in the past year and consider what steps we might take together in the year ahead. This event is open to all advocates and will be in a hybrid format. You can attend in person at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (5 S. Naches Ave, Yakima, WA 98901) or via Zoom (link will be sent out about a week prior to the event). [Register here!](#)

UUA General Assembly

June 22-26

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 is also an option for virtual attendance. [Register here](#) for General Assembly!

Registration is required for most parts of General Assembly, but some events will be livestreamed to the public. [Check out the list](#) (with links)!

UUCY Wednesday Coffee Now In Person!

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. Though they had been meeting on Zoom, they have moved back to **in-person** outside at Caffeine Connection Café (5621 Summitview Ave., by Inklings Bookshop).



Photo by [kim mastromartino](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Knit Night at UUCY

The Eweknits group meets in person weekly to knit at UUCY on Tuesday nights from 5-7 p.m. Proof of vaccination is 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 is required. All crafty types are welcome! Contact Rosemary Saul for more information.

The next meeting will be June 25.

NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION IN PERSON ON PATIO!

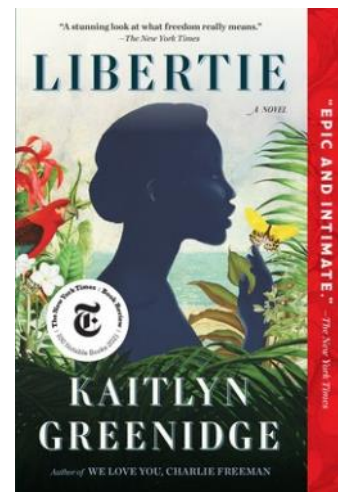
While we have been enjoying the convenience of Zoom, we have been missing the comradery of being and talking and laughing face to face. So our next meeting, Thursday, 6:00 PM on July 14 will be hosted by Susan Kaphammer at 629 N 50th Ave, Yakima. She will provide patio seating; others are invited to bring a small snack to share, your own beverage, and thoughts and opinions about the novel, ***Libertie***.

For September we will consider an often-requested title, ***Where the Crawdads Sing***, an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale.

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. Enjoy reading!

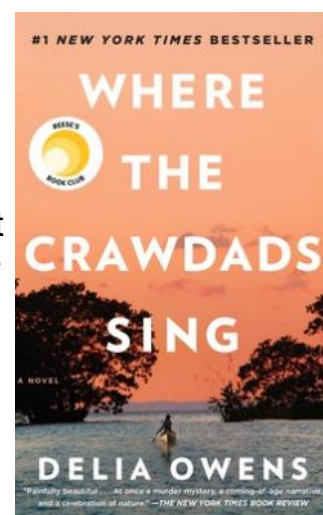
July 14, 2022: *Libertie: A Novel* by Kaitlyn Greenidge

Coming of age in a free Black community in Reconstruction-era Brooklyn, Libertie Sampson is all too aware that her purposeful mother, a practicing physician, expects Libertie to go to medical school and practice alongside her. But Libertie, drawn more to music than science, feels stifled by her mother's choices and wonders, is there really only one way to have an autonomous life? And, she is constantly reminded that, unlike her light-skinned mother, Libertie will not be able to pass for white. She accepts marriage proposal from a young man from Haiti who promises she will be his equal on the island, only to discover that she is still subordinate to him and all men. As she tries to parse what freedom actually means for a Black woman, Libertie struggles with where she might find it. Inspired by the life of one of the first Black female doctors in the United States and rich with historical detail, Kaitlyn Greenidge's novel offers "a profound meditation on what it means to be truly free — whether born free or formerly enslaved, whether in America, Haiti, or Liberia — while struggling against grief, sexism, racism, colorism, or classism." *A New York Times 100 Notable Books of 2021 and Best Historical Fiction.*



September 8, 2022: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Della Owens

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. She's barefoot and wild; unfit for polite society. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark. But Kya is not what they say. Abandoned at age ten, she has survived on her own in the marsh that she calls home. A born naturalist with just one day of school, she takes life lessons from the land, learning from the false signals of fireflies the real way of this world. But while she could have lived in solitude forever, the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. Drawn to two young men from town, who are each intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world--until the unthinkable happens.



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

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

Chair: Linda King
Debra Kroon
Denise Edwards
Sunny Sonker
Susan Kaphammer

AUCTION

Nancy Born

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia
Carole Sahlstrand

FAITH FORMATION

Susan Kaphammer

FINANCE

Chair: Janis Luvaas
Bill Jacobs

Your 2021 to 2022 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>	Nancy Born	nancyjborn@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Mary Brunelle	brufam@q.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Carole Sahlstrand	cjsahl@q.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Rosemary Saul	rosemarian59@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Ulla Whitmont	ullawhi@gmail.com

**UUCY OFFICE: 407 N. 1st St, Ste 1, Yakima, WA 98901 • uucyakima.org
509-453-8448 • admin@uucyakima.org**

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