

UniFire

July 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.

July 3 – No Service

There will be no service due to the holiday weekend.

July 10 – News & Views From General Assembly

Bill Jacobs & Susan Kaphammer

Highlights from the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists held in Portland, Oregon this June.

July 17 – Tune In Together: Searching For Truth in a Post-Truth World

Rev. Randy Davis

(This service will be on Zoom; watch your weekly update or contact the office for the link.)

July 24 – Coffee and Conversation

Join us for fellowship and informal sharing of thoughts and ideas. Facilitated by Denise Edwards.

July 31 – Coffee and Conversation: Professional Ministry

We're currently in the process of deciding what we need as a congregation and where we're going; take this opportunity to listen and share your ideas about professional ministry. Facilitated by Bill Jacobs.

UUCY President's Report

There are people in the Yakima area who would be happy to know that we are around. Let's tell them. I think in today's political climate in the US, many people would be relieved and happy to know that there is an organization of which they could become a part that holds as its highest values freedom of thought, reason, justice, compassion, and respect for each other.

Our Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima should shine a light on these values in our city and region, especially now in this time of passionate debate, disruption and change within American society. Our church has an opportunity, even a responsibility to bring these liberal religious values to the forefront, and remind people that they can live a life filled with love, compassion and community without a required doctrine that defies the laws of nature and reason. I hope that we can engage in more "reaching out" to our community.

I also hope that we can have more fun with each other and others in our community. The COVID-19 pandemic caused most people to severely curtail socializing. A lot of us are "out of the habit"! And some of us must maintain a limit on socialization and contact due to the persistence of COVID, and we need find ways to connect more with those of us in that position. They may need fun and community more than any of us! So, I'm hoping that our church can do more to build community within our existing congregation, with friends and with the community at large. Let's have some fun!

- Mike Gempler, Incoming UUCY President

Mike Gempler is the President of the UUCY Board of Trustees for 2022-2024, and can be reached for discussion and comments at any time. Reach out to the office for his contact information.

Adopt-A-Highway Update

by Denise Edwards

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part is the 7th principle of Unitarian Universalism.



The next outing for Adopt-a-Highway pickup will be **Saturday, the 16th of July**. Confirmation or changes will be in weekly updates. Email 11denisis@gmail.com if interested in volunteering and have not already filled out a registration.



Photo by [Lucas Sankey](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Homeless Network of Yakima County

The mission of the Homeless Network of Yakima County is to advocate for people who are homeless in order to improve their quality of life, increase public awareness of the issues of homelessness, impact public policy and prevent and end homelessness.

If you would like to support their mission by becoming a member, you can reach out to the UUCY office for an application. Membership for individuals is \$40, and scholarships are available.

UUCY Wednesday Coffee 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 [Karina L](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The Eweknits (Knitting Group)

Knitters/crocheters are moving outdoors for the summer—bring a project and a lawn chair to the southeast side of Randall Park, Tuesday, 5-7, and/or Saturday, 10-noon. This is still pretty fluid. If you are thinking of coming, and haven't yet done so, it might be a good idea to check with Nancy Born to confirm the time/date before heading out.

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 July 23.

NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION IN PERSON ON PATIO!

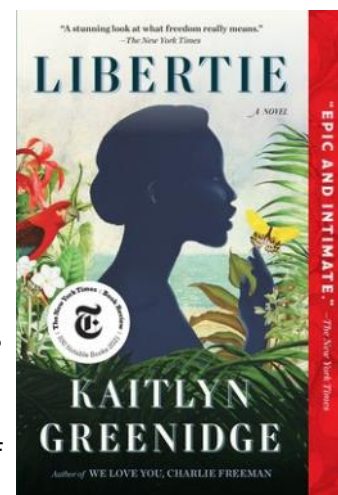
While Zoom has been convenient, we are missing the comradery of talking and laughing face to face. So our next meeting, Thursday, 6:00 PM on July 14 will be hosted by Susan Kaphammer at 629 N 50th Ave, Yakima. She will provide patio seating and beverages; others are invited to bring a small snack to share, your own beverage if you choose, and thoughts and opinions about the novel, *Libertie*. If it is hotter than blazes!... we'll retire to the air-conditioned living room. Call Susan at 509-949-0127 for more information.

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. Soon to be a motion picture... but you might want to read it first?!

Titles are available from Yakima Valley Libraries. They are out in paperback and available through Inklings Bookshop at a "Book Club Member" discount. Enjoy reading!

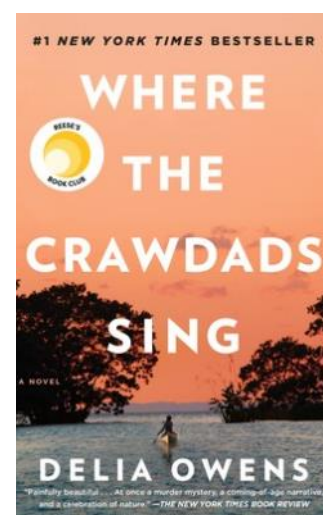
July 14, 2022: *Libertie: A Novel* by Kaitlyn Greenidge

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 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.



of

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

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

Chair: Linda King

Bill Jacobs

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 2022 to 2023 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

Board President Mike Gempler mikegempler@msn.com

Board Vice Pres. Carole Sahlstrand cjsahl@q.com

Trustee Nancy Born nancyjborn@gmail.com

Trustee Mary Brunelle almybrufam@gmail.com

Trustee Rosemary Saul rosemarian59@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.)