

UniFire

August 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. Proof of COVID vaccination will be required for entry to in person services. Masks are optional.

In-person services are generally livestreamed; however, due to the informal structure of this month's services, they wouldn't work well with our current setup so for the month of August, services will be in person only.

August 7 – Coffee and Conversation: Musical Expressions of Spirituality

A personal look at music – its effect, its power, its beauty. Facilitated by Sunny Sonker & Linda King.

August 14 – Coffee and Conversation: About Books

Christopher Paolini, in his novel Eragon, wrote, "Books are my friends, my companions. They make me laugh and cry and find meaning in life." What books are your friends? What have you found to laugh and cry about? And what meanings for life have you found in books? Join us this Sunday to share personal reminiscences about books and their places in our lives. Facilitated by Susan Kaphammer.

August 21 – Coffee and Conversation: Indicators of a Healthy Mother Earth - **Let's Talk About Pollinators!**

Join us to explore the role pollinators play in our biodiversity and what we might do to help them along. Facilitated by Debra Kroon.

August 28 – Coffee and Conversation: Being of Service

Finding balance - what being of service means to each of us. Facilitated by Denise Edwards



Adopt-A-Highway Update

by Denise Edwards

Is that Nancy holding onto President Grant? Yes, it's 50-dollar bill! WSDOT says finders keepers for volunteers who help declutter and keep roadsides beautiful through the Adopt-a-Highway program. UUCY is one of several organizations who adopt a piece of Washington roadway and provide a service that is noticed and appreciated. The next pick-up date is September 10th. For more info email Denise @ 11denisis@gmail.com.

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

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. These gatherings are either in-person outside at Caffeine Connection Café (5621 Summitview Ave., by Inklings Bookshop) or online to beat the heat. Keep up with your weekly updates to find out where the upcoming week's gathering will be!



Photo by [Kim Mastromartino](#) 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.

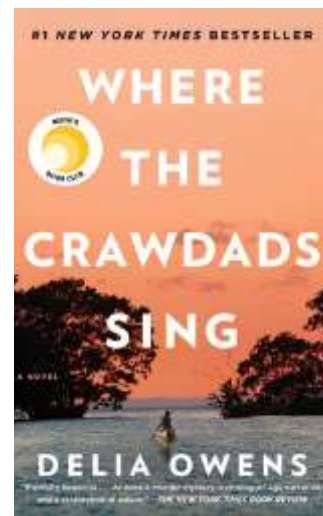
The next meeting will be August 27.

NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION (TENTATIVELY) IN PERSON

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 September 8 will be held at our church in our comfortable Ann Ingham Corner... unless COVID concerns call for a change of plans – check the Thursday update that week. You are welcome to bring a snack and beverage if you choose, but the highlight of the gathering will be our thoughts and opinions about the novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing*. I hope you get a chance to read it and watch the movie; contrasting the versions can enliven our conversation. The book is available at the Yakima Valley Libraries, and can be obtained from Inklings Bookshop at a “Book Club Member” discount.

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

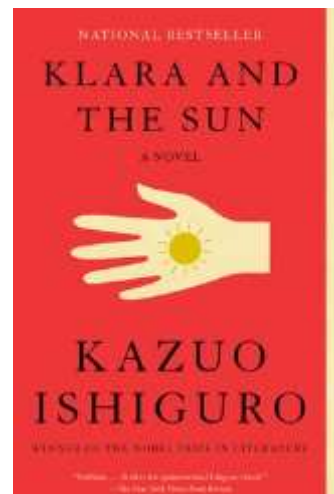
For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. She's barefoot and wild; unfit for polite society. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark. But Kya is not what they say. Abandoned at 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.



November 10, 2022: *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, is designed to be a playmate for real children. From her place in the store, Klara watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass in the street outside. She remains hopeful a customer will soon choose her, but when the possibility emerges that her circumstances may change forever, she is warned not to invest too much in the promises of humans.

In this luminous tale, Nobel Prize winner Kazuo Ishiguro looks at our rapidly changing modern world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator to explore a fundamental question: what does it mean to love?



Our November title, *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro, is available as a Book Club Set from the Yakima Valley Libraries. On October 1, will pick up 8 copies to distribute to Book Clubbers at church on October 2 and at Wednesday coffee on October 5. That gives us about five weeks reading time before our discussion. If you are interested in reading and discussing this book but can't pick a copy up one of these days, give Susan a call so we can make other arrangements. These copies must then be left with Susan after our discussion to be returned to the library. No fees, minimal fuss – let's see how this works for us!

(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:

<i>Board President</i>	Mike Gempler	mikegempler@msn.com
<i>Board Vice Pres.</i>	Carole Sahlstrand	cjsahl@q.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Nancy Born	nancyjborn@gmail.com
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UUCY Administrator – Hannah Born (hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tues., Thurs., & Fri.)