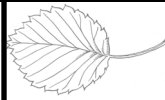


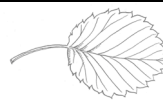
UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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



November 2022



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.

November 6: Change

Change can be a force like a flash flood that unexpectedly, powerfully scours away the familiar, leaving a new landscape. More often, change is the quiet but persistent alterations in our personal worlds and in our souls. Today's service explores our responsibilities to be change agents but also our personal and spiritual responses to the changes visited upon us. Presented by Susan Kaphammer with material from the Soul Matters series.

November 13: Let's Change the Story

Rev. Luopa of Seattle's University Unitarian Church walks us through moments of self-destruction into moments of clarity, insight and respite to help us change the story. This will be an in-person service that will be aired on our big screen platform. Debra Kroon will serve as celebrant, Sunny Sonker will provide the music, and Andrew Whitmont will lead the discussion.

November 20: Exploring Gratitude

Attendees are asked to come prepared to share thoughts based on prompts by Chuck Forster. ANYONE who has a poem or would like to write a poem about something for which they are grateful or otherwise exploring gratitude will have an opportunity to share if they wish.

November 30: Dark Meat or Light: The Choices We Make

Join in conversation around how our choices impact our daily living, our happiness, our relationships, our way of being in the world - and more!

Hope (and Change)

by Mike Gempler

Hope keeps people alive. Hope keeps communities alive. Our little church has a role to play in bringing people hope. Our church is a place to gather to talk about and experience things that are beyond our everyday life. By coming together, we create a place to learn and remind ourselves about those things that make us able to live with courage, compassion, and zest. In our community we can build each other up. This is the best part of community; helping each other be better, wiser, happier. Hope gives us motivation to take chances, and taking chances enables us to go to higher levels of understanding and happiness. Creating and sustaining hope is part of our purpose at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima.

As President, I interact with our church staff. I would just like to say that we are fortunate to have such dedicated and professional people in Hannah and Scott. They are a real strength for us. Thank you.

The UUCY Board has adopted a new strategy for our annual auction fundraiser. It just seemed too difficult to do it the way we had before, with a big one-time event in a suitable venue with an auctioneer. So, board members put in their thinking caps and came up with an idea that may be even more fun, and will hopefully raise just as much money.

We need to raise \$5,000 by next June to meet the income budgeted for the auction. This year we will be holding fun experiences throughout the year. The fun experiences are held by church members and are publicized. Church members and others (bring some friends!) pay the price set by the host (proceeds go to the church), and enjoy the event. Church members are encouraged to sign up to host events; game nights, movie nights, dinners, you name it. This is going to be fun!

For more information or to ask about hosting an event, email the Auction Team at uucyauction@gmail.com!

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.

Game Night is a Winner!

Game Night last Friday, the kickoff event for our new Action Auction approach, was a big success! Amidst spooky decorations a merry band of 11 laughed and talked and ate, including Office Worker's Eyeballs, which were especially popular!

The consensus was that we should do it more often; hence, a monthly No-Brainer Game Night is in the offing.

It will be the **last Friday of every month**, from 6 to 9 p.m. Don't miss out! Be sure to come.

And if you have a suggestion for a game you would like to play, speak up!



*Phil & Gean Dindia and Denise Edwards
deep in contemplation of their next play.*



Office Workers' Eyeballs

So far, these games have been suggested: Triominos, Aggravation, Rack-O, and a card game might be nice, too...say, Progressive Rummy or Hand & Foot? The last Friday of November is the day after Thanksgiving, so keep it in mind. It will be fun!

Did you miss out on game night? Never fear, other Auction Action adventures are already planned; check them out on the next page of this newsletter! OR... you could supply one of your own!

NEW Auction Experiences!

Fabulous adventures await you in the following experiences offered by members & friends of UUCY. Interested? Got a talent you'd like to share with others in coming months? Email uucyauction@gmail.com to let us know.



Learn to Make Kimchi!

Kimchi is delicious and nutritious, a perfect way to brighten your winter meals. A three-hour class on Saturday, November 26, 1-4 p.m., will cover ingredients, where to get them/what to substitute for hard-to-find items, how to prep them, the entire process of making a batch of traditional kimchi from start to finish.

Participants will go home with a clean gallon glass jar, a customized recipe, a container of fresh kimchi, and the knowledge and confidence to create their own kimchi. This class will be led by Nancy Born. \$40 per person. Six spots available.

The Way of Haiku as Spiritual Practice

An introduction through instruction and practice to the writing of haiku as a path of spiritual development. The Buddhist principles that will be discussed here align with UU values in developing empathy, compassion, connection to nature, intimacy, joy of discovery, and a more sensitive conscience. A two-hour workshop on Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., for ideally 12 people. \$20 each.

Offered by Tony Long, to be held at UUCY, 407 N. First Street.



Painting by Utagawa Hiroshige, from the collection of Östasiatiska Museet (Sweden).

Chalice Circles Are Back!

(or are they? Your input is needed!)

Anyone interested in restarting Chalice Circles?

Before COVID, Chalice Circles were a gathering of 8 people to reflect on a topic every other week, lasting 6 to 8 weeks. It is designed to learn to know each other better and share each person's religious story.

We might start a circle or two depending on the interest. If you're interested, contact Gean or Phil Dindia or Emilee Solomon. The proposed starting date is after January 1, 2023.



Apple Brunch in December!

Watch the weekly update for more details.



Eliot Camps Open Again!

by Ulla Whitmont

My first experience with the Unitarians at Eliot was in 1972. I secured a 'job' as lifeguard which helped pay for the camp fees. Later Andrew and I brought our family of 5 to Seabeck. Soon we experienced the situation that all spots for the camps were taken. We were not able to deal with being on a waiting list for our summer vacation plans. Years later we learned that Winter Eliot was open to campers and we have enjoyed winter Eliot for many years now until COVID shut it all down.

Now Seabeck is back up and running full speed and there is **no waitlist!** This would be the time for you all to sign up for one of the several UU camps at Seabeck. Let me know if you have any questions, or visit the [Eliot Institute](#) website for more information.



Knitting Group

Knitters, crocheters, yarn fans of all kinds are welcome! Meetings are Tuesday evenings, 5-7 p.m. at UUCY. For more information contact Nancy Born.

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.

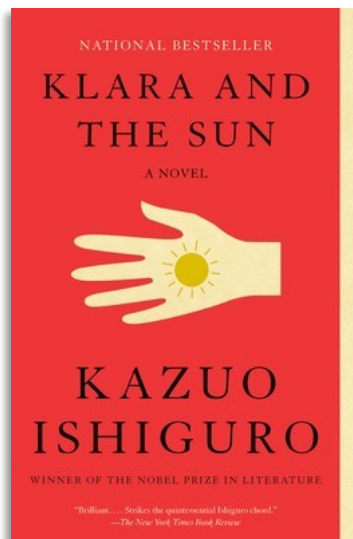
UUCY Wednesday Coffee

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 in-person and indoors at North Town Coffeehouse (32 N. Front Street).



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION SET FOR NOVEMBER 10

In keeping with our 2nd Thursday of every-other month schedule, our UUCY Book Club will gather at 6:00 PM on Thursday, November 10 in the Ann Ingham Corner of our current home at 407 North 1st Street, Yakima.



Reviewed on NPR as “a masterpiece that will make you think about life, mortality, the saving grace of love,” *Klara and the Sun* is sure to provide for interesting opinions and comments.

Be sure to bring your copy of the book! As a Book Club Set from the Yakima Valley Libraries, the copies need to be collected by Susan Kaphammer and returned to the library after our Book Club meeting.

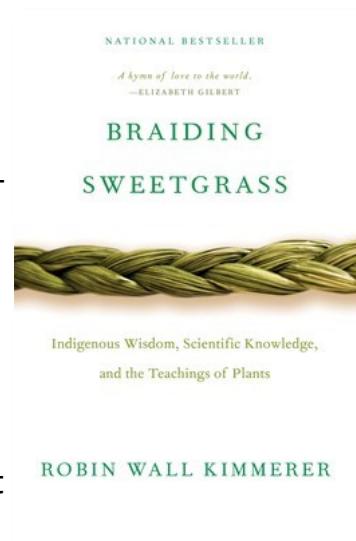
You are welcome to bring a snack and beverage for yourself or to share.

Meanwhile, we can look forward to our January 12 selection:

***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.** (390 pages)

Termed, “a mesmerizing storyteller,” Kimmerer draws on her life as an indigenous scientist and as a woman to show how other living beings – plants and animals – offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices.

“Her book of wisdom, knowledge and teachings celebrates life that is both ordinary — her simple days as a working parent — and magical, filled with many gifts from good-hearted communities. Her interactions, however, are not solely with human groups but are equally and necessarily with the natural world. She introduces readers to a language of flora and fauna that is readably right in front of them, and nudges — at times, urges — her readers to recognize an inclusive reciprocity with our environment. – Elizabeth Wilkinson, *The Star Tribune*



Named a Best Essay Collection of the Decade by Literary Hub

Susan Kaphammer will pick up eight copies of *Braiding Sweetgrass* in the Yakima Valley Libraries Book Club set early in December and will have them available at Wednesday coffee and Sunday Services, providing time to read before our January 12th meeting. Copies are also available at the public library and from Inklings Bookshop with a Book Club discount.

(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

FAITH FORMATION

Susan Kaphammer

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia

Carole Sahlstrand

FINANCE

Chair: Janis Luvaas

Bill Jacobs

Your 2022 to 2023 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

| | | |
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| <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 |
| <i>Trustee</i> | Mary Brunelle | almybrufam@gmail.com |
| <i>Trustee</i> | Rosemary Saul | rosemarian59@gmail.com |



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509-453-8448 • admin@uucyakima.org

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