

# UNIFIRE

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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



January 2023



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.

### **January 1: No Service**

#### **January 8: Coffee and Conversation — Peace Like a River**

*Peace Like a River* is an African-American spiritual song well known to many faiths, including Unitarian Universalists. Join us this Sunday as we head into a new year for coffee and conversation about how peace is experienced in your life, and in the world.

#### **January 15: The Writings of Ted Kooser**

Ted Kooser is a poet and essayist, a Presidential Professor of English at The University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He served as the U. S. Poet Laureate from 2004-2006, and his book *Delights & Shadows* won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for poetry. His writing is known for its clarity, precision and accessibility. He worked for many years in the life insurance business, retiring in 1999 as a vice president. He and his wife, Kathleen Rutledge, the retired editor of *The Lincoln Journal Star*, live on an acreage near the village of Garland, Nebraska.

#### **January 22: Tune in Together — The ‘God’ of Small Things**

From Rev. Lavanhar: “The mystics of every culture have a way of discovering the divine in all things. In our tradition, Ralph Waldo Emerson encouraged us to discover God, or the Oneness of life, in nature and relationships and inside ourselves. As we explore the multifaceted theme of “God” this month, let us look for the Ultimate in tiny, everyday things.” Join us as we view together this service, first delivered on December 11, 2022 at the All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

#### **January 29: Finding Our Center**

Calm and rest may be the first things that come to mind when we talk about “Finding our Center.” Yet, as our faith reminds us, being a “centered person” requires more if we are to move toward a balance of justice. We have to upset the current state of things, being purposefully off-balance and out-of-step with our culture, or as Martin Luther King Jr. said, maladjusted to the way things are. With resources from the Soul Matters series, Susan Kaphammer will help us seek clarity about our centers, then to ask, “What is my center calling me to do?”

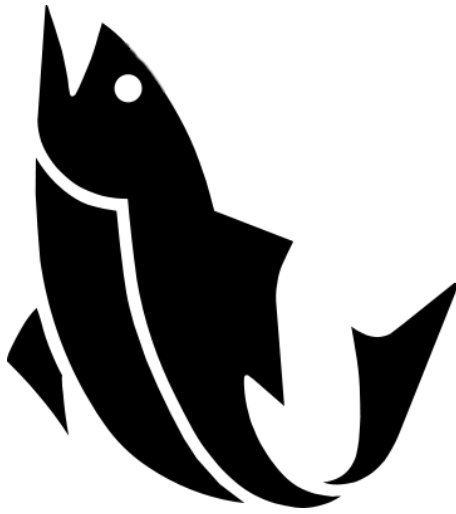
# **An Update From the New Home Task Force**

**by task force chair Rosemary Saul**

After feedback from the congregation regarding potential cost of renovations, and/or increase in rent by taking an additional unit in our existing building, the New Home Task Force rescinded our recommendation to move into Units 2 & 3. It was agreed that the expenditure of renovations on a property that does not belong to our congregation is not the best use of our available funds.

And, after reconsideration of the space in Unit 3, and the success of the Apple Brunch in our existing space, the task force made a revised recommendation that we remain in our current space for the time being. The Board approved this recommendation, and the landlord was notified on Dec. 12.

The task force will continue to search for a new home, with the thought of possibly sharing space in another church or perhaps purchasing a small church building, should one become available. The search goes on, with an even clearer idea of what we require and what we hope to find.



## **Seven Fishes Dinner for Valentine's Day**

*February 11 at the Dindias', 4 p.m.*

Another delicious and traditional seven fishes dinner hosted by Phil and Gean Dindia. \$50 per seat, six seats available. Come hungry!

Email [uucyauction@gmail.com](mailto:uucyauction@gmail.com) to claim your seat!

## **Auction Action Needed NOW!**

What enthusiasm or talent would you enjoy sharing with others? Do you bullet journal? Mend things? Iron? Clear clutter? Bake bread? Love to make (and eat!) Indian food? Offer a meal at your home or a simple meal to be delivered to the buyer's home, or teach a class in something you love to do.

Email [uucyauction@gmail.com](mailto:uucyauction@gmail.com) with your ideas. We are all waiting eagerly for the next opportunities!

## **Justice Housing Update**

Good news for the Justice Housing program! The state has just awarded \$6 million to that program, so that it can begin the process of building the tiny homes for the house-less members of our community. This is a big step forward. They will soon be asking churches, community groups and individuals for donations to make those houses into homes— that is, to buy beds, tables, silverware, toiletries, etc.

## **First UUCY Movie Night: *Oklahoma!***

**Friday, January 20, 7:00 p.m.**

After being postponed last month, movie night is rescheduled! Join us at 407 N. 1st Street for a rollicking singalong of a movie night— lyrics (and popcorn!) will be provided!



Photo by [Riho Kroll](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## **UUCY Game Night**

**NEXT GAME NIGHT AT UUCY IS JANUARY 27!**

The last Friday of January is the 27th. Be sure to put UUCY Game Night on your calendar for Friday, January 27, from 6-9 p.m. If you are a returnee, you know it's a fun time; if you aren't, it's time to find out! Bring a game if you like, treats to share if you feel like it, but mainly, bring yourself! It's the "Show up" part of that saying Rev. Ken used to share: "Show up. Pay attention. Tell the truth. Let go."

Questions? Contact the UUCY office at [admin@uucyakima.org](mailto:admin@uucyakima.org) or (509) 453-8448, or Nancy Born.

## **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.





## **Knitting Group Canceled Until Further Notice**

## **Quilting & Crafting Group**

The quilting group gathers at the church on the fourth Saturday of every month at 9 a.m.

Proof of vaccination is required. The next meeting will be **January 28th, 2023**.

## **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).



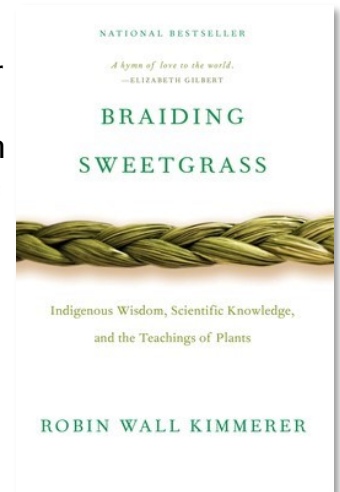


# GET YOUR COPY OF *BRAIDING SWEETGRASS*

Meet fellow readers at **6:00 PM on Thursday, January 12**, in the Ann Ingham Corner of our current home at 407 North 1st Street, Yakima, to discuss the celebrated collection of essays by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Spend some quiet time with the beautiful writing and heartfelt passages of this meaningful book. You may wish to note some brief sections to share at our book discussion.

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

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings--asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass--offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.



## **Named a Best Essay Collection of the Decade by Literary Hub**

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on "a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise" (Elizabeth Gilbert).

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*)

Mark your calendar for **March 9, 2023**, for the next meeting of the Book Club. The book to be discussed will be announced in the February *UniFire*. Copies will be available to pick up the first week of February.

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

# UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Chair: Debra Kroon

Denise Edwards

Bill Jacobs

Susan Kaphammer

Linda King

Sunny Sonker

## 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:

<i>Board President</i>	Mike Gempler	<a href="mailto:mikegempler@msn.com">mikegempler@msn.com</a>
<i>Board Vice Pres.</i>	Carole Sahlstrand	<a href="mailto:cjsahl@q.com">cjsahl@q.com</a>
<i>Trustee</i>	Nancy Born	<a href="mailto:nancyjborn@gmail.com">nancyjborn@gmail.com</a>
<i>Trustee</i>	Mary Brunelle	<a href="mailto:almybrufam@gmail.com">almybrufam@gmail.com</a>
<i>Trustee</i>	Rosemary Saul	<a href="mailto:rosemarian59@gmail.com">rosemarian59@gmail.com</a>



**UUCY OFFICE: 407 N. 1st St, Ste 1, Yakima, WA 98901 • [uucyakima.org](http://uucyakima.org)  
509-453-8448 • [admin@uucyakima.org](mailto:admin@uucyakima.org)**

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