

UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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

 **JANUARY 2024** 

January 7: Community Matters

Chrissy Schott with The Yakima and Selah Neighbors' Network (YSNN) joins us today to share about this organization which promotes new ways to navigate the challenges and opportunities of aging by creating programs, friendships and services that support independence in our homes and connection to our community.

As a member of Yakima Selah Neighbors' Network, you can be part of a community of interesting people and programs and you will find volunteers eager to offer support and resources tailored to your needs. Many members have discovered that our volunteers are more than just volunteers; they're great friends.

January 14: A Peek Inside Banned Books

Banned books are once again a flamin' hot topic in the news. Rosemary Saul, assisted by Linda Dunham, will share some thoughts about the what, the where, and perhaps the why.

January 21: The Gift of Liberating Love

Informed by the *Soul Matters* series, Susan Kaphammer shares thoughts, readings and stories prompting consideration of the love that we receive and give. We will look beyond sentimental or romantic love to the power at the intersection of love and liberation. It is this that calls us to participate with the purpose of our larger denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Association, "to actively engage... in the transformation of the world through liberating love."

January 28: Life Hacks for a Happy Climate

Chuck Forester and Debra Kroon are teaming up to present "How to Feng Shui Your Refrigerator and other happy climate hacks" by Jiaying Zhao. Dr. Zhao is a behavioral scientist from British Columbia, Canada. On April 23, 2023, Dr. Zhao delivered a Ted Talk where they discussed possible actions we might take to help the climate while also making ourselves happy. This talk includes 8 life hacks to "lower your carbon emissions while increasing your joy and fulfillment."

The Auction Returns!

It's time to start thinking about the first UUCY auction since pre-pandemic days! The Auction Committee is seeking new, fresh ideas and volunteers. This is an opportunity to recreate a longtime favorite UUCY event—be sure to get in on the fun! We need to set a date for sometime next spring, select a location, plan a menu, solicit donations, engage entertainment...the list goes on...and on! Contact Nancy Born if you would like to join the team!

Between the Ridges: Gratitude and Going Forward

by Phil Dindia

First, a joyful shout out and congratulations for our UU members who donated a whopping \$6,250 to the Yakima Association of Faith Ministries to jump start its mission to form a coalition - Between the Ridges - to work as one for the common good of this valley of ours.

When formed, this coalition, through a vote of its members, will tackle justice issues that seem never to change or get better. We believe that if hundreds or thousands of us take on these issues together we will be more able to move the "arc of justice", whether it is homelessness; mental health services in schools and the county, climate change and the host of other issues we know are present.

This coalition will take on some of these issues that are in the way of our "pursuit of happiness" as identified in our Declaration of Independence. We believe that we the people in great numbers can push the "arc of justice" when small groups cannot.

We will keep you posted as to the donations given by the other members of the current coalition for Between the Ridges. When we reach \$50,000 we will have a party.

Antiracism Learning Circles

On Zoom, organized by First Unitarian in Portland

You are invited to join Antiracism Learning Circles this winter and spring. It's on Zoom, so you can join from anywhere! First Unitarian in Portland, OR is the organizer, and we are eager to include participation from all faiths and allies everywhere. We hope you can join us and that you'll help spread the word.

LEARNING CIRCLES are small discussion cohorts based on a book or podcast that provide:

- Important learning about white supremacy, racism, and our national history
- The opportunity to build trust and go deep in small group discussions over time
- A safe place to have difficult discussions and deal with discomfort
- An opportunity to create and strengthen relationships with others
- Connection, focus and purpose in a virtual setting

How Do LEARNING CIRCLES Work?

- Each cohort (typically 4-12) gathers for a series (from 4-10 sessions) of facilitated Zoom discussions.
- Register for a particular Learning Circle. Meeting dates & times vary.
- Each individual is given the opportunity to share reactions, then discuss as a group
- We ask that you plan to attend all sessions so we can build bonds of trust and insight

A partial selection of books, podcasts etc. to be discussion topics:

- **Seeing White** - the real history of the US, the one none of us were taught in school. This is where to start your journey! (podcast series)
- **The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story** - edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones - a profoundly reveling vision of American past and present
- **The Conspiracy to End America: Five Ways My Old Party is Driving Our Democracy to Autocracy** - by Stuart Stevens
- **Say What You Mean: A Mindful Approach to Nonviolent Communication** - by Oren J. Sofer

Full list with descriptions, schedules & registration information are [HERE](#).

For questions contact Jody Feldman at feldmanjody@gmail.com.



UUCY COFFEE GATHERINGS

Join us every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at **Catalyst Coffee (221 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.)** for coffee, companionship and conversation!

UUCY Game Night

Friday, January 26th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The last Friday night of the month, join the fun (and the games!) at UUCY. Bring your favorite game or try something new! The same goes for treats.



This could be you!

Circle Suppers

November's Circle Suppers were enjoyed by all attendees. Good food and good company added up to a good time! Thank you to Phil & Gean Dindia and Lucy Ann Valderhaug for hosting. Now that the holidays are past, we'd like to go for another round. Maybe even a Circle Brunch!

A date being considered is Saturday, January 20th. What do you think?

For now, the quilting group is on an indefinite hiatus.

Knitters, crocheters, spinners, fiber artists of all stripes are welcome to join other makers Tuesday nights 5:00-7:00 p.m. at UUCY, 407 N. First St., Unit 3. Bring a project to work on or if you need help or inspiration, that will be available, too! (If it's your first time, or first in a while, check with Nancy Born or the office to make sure it's happening this week!)

BUZZING ABOUT THE BEES!

DISCUSSION ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024, 3 TO 5 PM

UUCY, 407 N 1ST STREET, SUITE 3. BRING THE BOOK; SNACK ISOPTIONAL.

UU readers are buzzing about our January title: *The Bees* by Laline Paull (see below). We will meet to freely share our impressions, reactions and opinions. And, of course, to share cheerful time together! I am hoping that at least one of our members who has tended bee hives will be able to join us.

As always, everyone is welcome; if you haven't read the book, you are still invited to sit in with us at our church home at 407 N 1st Street, Suite 3. Optional: bring a snack to share.

***The Bees* by Laline Paull. 2015. 340 pages.**

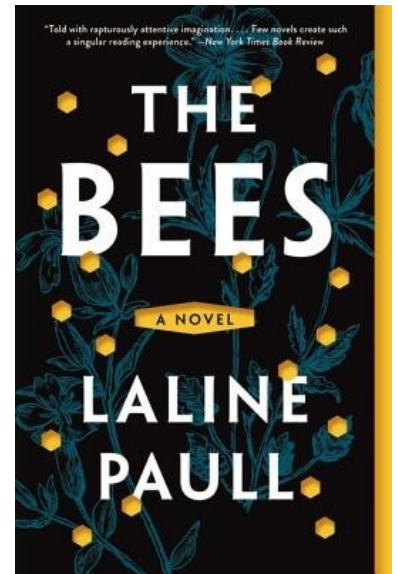
Flora 717 is a sanitation worker, a member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive, where work and sacrifice are the highest virtues and worship of the beloved Queen the only religion. But Flora is not like other bees. With circumstances threatening the hive's survival, her curiosity is regarded as a dangerous flaw, but her courage and strength are assets. She is allowed to feed the newborns in the royal nursery and then to become a forager, flying alone and free to collect nectar and pollen. A feat of bravery grants her access to the Queen's inner sanctum, where she discovers mysteries about the hive that are both profound and ominous. But when Flora breaks the most sacred law of all - daring to challenge the Queen's preeminence - enemies abound.



"Well-crafted and filled with intrigue and action, this is a brilliant, thought-provoking, and completely original debut..." — **Indie Next List**

"It quickly became clear that in its basic facts, the novel sticks closely to real-world apian biology and behavior. That is fascinating enough, but Paull deftly wields this information to create an even more elaborately layered culture of beeness... Beautiful." — **Washington Post**

"It's rare to come across a book as mind-blowingly imaginative as Laline Paull's *The Bees*. It's even more rare for such works to be successful, well-written, gripping stories... *The Bees* is an utterly memorable wonder of a novel." — **Kirkus Reviews**



The next book for our club will be announced by end of January, with discussion currently scheduled for March 14.

Book description and reviews excerpted from inklingsbookshop.com.

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 2023 to 2024 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

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