

UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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



MAY 2024



May 5: Reasons Not to be a Unitarian

Today we share a compelling dive into 5 New Reasons to Not be a Unitarian with Dr. Rev. Daniel Kantor, Unitarian Church of Dallas. We gather to watch this service in person; Andrew Whitmont will lead us in discussions. What are the 5 new reasons? Can you guess? An intriguing question. Join us as we find the answers together.

May 12: This I Believe About Women

About Being a Mother, About Having a Mother. Following a Time for All Ages, a UUCY panel will share their thoughts and experiences related to motherhood.

May 19: Unmentionables, Part 2

Gean Dindia returns with another look into topics we don't often discuss. Gean and Phil Dindia share with us their perspectives on intimacy and the ways it may be expressed. We will be invited to share our own stories related to this topic following their presentation.

May 26: The Gifts of Remembrance & Renewal

Memorial Day, set aside to honor the sacrifices of those who served in the U. S. Armed Forces, is also for many of us an annual occasion to remember family and friends who have touched our lives but are no longer here. This Sunday's service will acknowledge Remembrance and also consider relaxing into a spiritual practice of Renewal. From our Soul Matters Series, Susan Kaphammer will offer thoughts on moving forward with hope, faith and courage.

AUCTION DEADLINES ARE FAST APPROACHING!

MAY 5— Donations and donation forms turned in
MAY 12— Last day to buy tickets!!!
MAY 19— FUNDAY Sunday!

Please help us out! Organizers need time to prep items and create the auction catalog, bid sheets, etc., and the restaurant needs to know in advance how much food to prepare. **No tickets will be sold at the door!!**

Get your tickets now!

Pick them up after Sunday service or contact the administrator for pickup during the week.

Send donation forms to uucyauction@gmail.com.

THE AUCTION IS BACK!

Sunday, May 19 • 12–3 p.m. • Geet's Indian Restaurant

Get your tickets now for the UUCY Auction! **Sunday, May 19**, from noon to three p.m., at Geet's Indian Restaurant on North First Street. This is always a fun time! Invite friends, too!

Geet will provide a delicious brunch buffet (tickets available for purchase soon), and, as always, there will be enticing shopping available!



FIRST OUTING OF 2024

Saturday morning on Highway 12 started a little cool and breezy, then it calmed, and we were warmed by the sun, ending just before a little rainfall. We all worked different sections of our designated stretch of roadside and got the job done. My favorite part was when I stopped for a minute and no cars were cars passing. I took a moment to scan the landscape while listening to a chorus of birdsong from my surroundings. I never tire of the good feeling that brings no matter where I am when it happens.

There will be three more pick-up dates this season, published in the Thursday update or UniFire ahead of time. If you wish to participate and have not registered, contact Denise at 11denisis@gmail.com.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday Services Committee: May 7th, 11 a.m.
Board of Trustees: May 13th, 4 p.m.
Lifespan Learning: June 2nd, after Sunday service

Crafternoons

Tuesdays, 3-5 p.m.!

**No Game Night
in May!**

Every Tuesday afternoon from 3 to 5, crafters come together at UUCY to do handwork in good company. Some sew, some bead, some knit, some embroider, some crochet—all are welcome!

PLANNING CONTINUES FOR LIFETIME LEARNING

Over twenty members met after Sunday Service on April 7 to identify possibilities and offer input for Lifespan Learning at UUCY. Planning continues to meet the interests and needs of all ages to explore, learn and apply UU principles in our lives. "Lifespan Learning" is the umbrella term including what has previously been known as Children's Religious Education, Faith Formation, Youth Programs, and Adult Education.

Discussion and a survey indicated interest in a variety of topics including: Small Group or Chalice Circles (currently offered - contact Gean Dindia); New UU; Social Justice; Spiritual Practices (meditation currently offered - contact Joy McKinney); Book Studies (Book Club currently offered - see Unifire); Film Discussions; UU History, Theology, and Ethics; Stories of Our Lives; Feminist Theology; Aging; and others. Members at the meeting also indicated interest in facilitating programs or being on the Lifespan Learning Committee.

The importance of providing for the young children and their parents who attend our church has been recognized. Adjustments to our Sunday Services are being tried out. In general, children will be welcomed to sit at the front of the congregation for the first part of the service. Some of the elements, including Story for All Ages, will be offered to be child-friendly. Children will then be sung to their room to continue their play and activities. Sunday Services Committee will continue to plan the services to meet the needs of all ages.

The next step for Lifespan Learning at UUCY will be organizing the Committee to prioritize, organize and facilitate classes, groups, experiences and activities. This first Lifespan Learning Committee meeting is scheduled for after Sunday Service (11:20 AM) on June 2. All who are interested are encouraged to attend, and / or contact Susan Kaphammer with your questions and comments.



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!

Let's Talk DNA and Family History at MAY 9 Book Club Meeting

Have you thought about home genetic testing? Maybe you have already sent in your sample to Ancestry or 23andMe and received surprising or confounding results. Or you might feel you don't know enough about the whole hoopla about tracing your genes. No matter where you stand, this month's book club selection reviews the science, recounts fascinating personal stories, and may leave questions as well as answers.

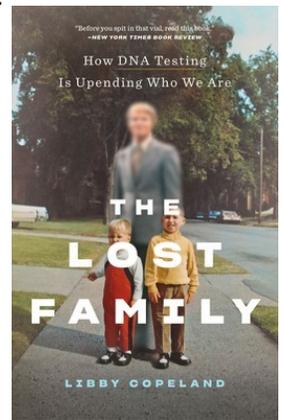
Join the friendly group at our Book Club meeting, **Thursday, May 9, 2024, 3:00 PM at our church home at 407 N 1st Street, Suite 3.** Bring a snack share if you wish. Everyone is welcome.

***The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are* by Libby Copeland. 2021. 304 pages.**

A deeply reported look at home genetic testing and the seismic shock it has had on our culture and on individual lives.

You swab your cheek or spit in a vial, then send it away to a lab somewhere. Weeks later you get a report that might tell you where your ancestors came from or if you carry certain genetic risks. Or, the report could reveal a long-buried family secret that upends your entire sense of identity. Soon a lark becomes an obsession, a relentless drive to find answers to questions at the core of your being, like "Who am I?" and "Where did I come from?" Welcome to the age of home genetic testing.

In *The Lost Family*, journalist Libby Copeland investigates what happens when we embark on a vast social experiment with little understanding of the ramifications. She explores the culture of genealogy buffs, the science of DNA, and the business of companies like Ancestry and 23andMe, all while tracing the story of one woman, her unusual results, and a relentless methodical drive for answers that becomes a thoroughly modern genetic detective story. Gripping and masterfully told, *The Lost Family* is a spectacular book on a big, timely subject.



"[*The Lost Family*] wrestles with some of the biggest questions in life: Who are we? What is family? Are we defined by nature, nurture or both?" — *The Washington Post*

"Up-to-the-minute science meets the philosophy of identity in a poignant, engaging debut." — *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

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:

<i>Board President</i>	Mike Gempler	mikegempler@msn.com
<i>Board Vice Pres.</i>	Carole Sahlstrand	cjsahls39@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Nancy Born	nancyjborn@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Mary Brunelle	almybrufam@gmail.com
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UUCY Administrator – Hannah Born (hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tues., Thurs., & Fri.)