

UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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

 **JUNE 2024** 

June 2: Faith in the Public Square

Rev. Galen Guengerich of All Souls Church of NYC brings us a service that discusses the relationship between belief and political activism. Andrew Whitmont will be our discussion leader. This may be a service that helps us navigate that uncomfortable space between feeling and acting.

June 9: Father's Day II: The Prequel Boyz II Men?

Women earn \$82 for every \$100 earned by men, and men continue to dominate positions of power. Yet, many of the volumes on the best seller lists, as well as the Talking Heads of Cable TV, are convinced that boys and men are "falling behind." What is this all about? And are the UU Covenants relevant to this discussion? Bill Jacobs will try to shed some light on this.

June 16: Oh My — God?

God can sometimes be a tricky subject for Unitarian Universalists. While we have decidedly "godly" roots, today we are more apt to hear words like divine and spirit in our services. For some, God may even be "unmentionable" or non-existent, but most would acknowledge that God is not easily put in a box.

Please join in this participatory exploration of God facilitated by mother/daughter duo Linda and Hannah King, with Sunny Sonker on piano. Also featuring the musical stylings of Roger Allen Smith and Hannah Marie King.

June 23: Closing Services at General Assembly

Tune in Together as we live stream the closing services at the GA conference.

June 30: Coffee & Conversation: Swedish Death Cleaning

This Sunday, Debra Kroon will bring the topic of 'Swedish Death Cleaning.' How can we prepare peacefully and mindfully to deal with our accumulations? Why is it so difficult to let go? How to enjoy the process while also managing the task at hand? While this topic may seem to apply to more senior members, it is never too early to begin a more conscious attitude towards possessions and accumulation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Lifespan Learning: June 2nd, after Sunday service

Sunday Services Committee: June 4th, 11 a.m.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: June 9th, after Sunday service. All members encouraged to attend!

Board of Trustees: June 10th, 4 p.m.

THIS SUMMER: COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Starting in June, we kick-off our summer series of Coffee and Conversation touching on a variety of topics. Join us each Sunday as a community member leads a friendly discussion around his or her selected topic.

LIFESPAN LEARNING MEETING SET FOR JUNE 2

Planning for Lifespan Learning at UUCY will continue with a meeting after services on Sunday, June 2, beginning at 11:20. We will begin to organize the Committee to continue to seek input and plan for possible activities for this fall. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Contact Susan Kaphammer, particularly if you are not able to attend this coming Sunday.

ADOPT A HIGHWAY LITTER PICKUP

The next highway pick-up date is June 8th. This is the second of four planned outings. The weather is likely to be warm and pleasant. Volunteers make this program possible and are much appreciated by WSDOT, passing travelers, and UUCY. Whether you can do it once, or more, it makes a difference. Registered participants get an email with details before the next day out. If you are interested in joining and not yet registered please email Denise at 11denisis@gmail.com More information as well as a training video are available on the [WSDOT website](#).

SNOWFLAKES BECOME ICEBERGS

A Mantra on Climate Change

by Phil Dindia

Vote and vote for climate justice. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

Plant a tree. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

Support credit unions not big banks. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

Hand out information about climate change. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

Use cloth not plastic bags. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

Donate for a climate cause. Write an article about climate change. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

Plant a garden. Eat organic food. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

Take shorter showers. Flush less often. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

A word. A sign. A button. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

Ride a bike to work or school. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

If possible buy a hybrid or electric car. Put in solar panels. It's a little thing but do it anyway.

Do something. Do it for our earth. It may be a small thing but it will keep hope alive in you and those you love.



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!

**No Game
Night
in June!**

CRAFTERNOONS

Tuesdays, 3-5 p.m.!

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!

Novel Incorporates Pandemic and Ghosts and Bookstore In Our July 11 Book Club Selection

"A bewitching novel...Strange, enchanting and funny..." "Erdrich can write a haunting story without invoking even the slightest hint of the gothic..." "... a staggering addition to Erdrich's already impressive body of work." Written by an esteemed author – and bookstore owner! – and set in a bookstore, this novel covers a year marked with stress and chaos, testifying to the healing power of books. Copies will be available at Wednesday coffees and Sunday services beginning the first week of June. It is also available in print and electronic versions from the Yakima Valley Libraries, and in Large Print edition. Get a copy and enjoy the read!

Join the friendly group at our Book Club meeting, **Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 5:00 PM at our church home at 407 N 1st Street, Suite 3.** NOTE the change of time to later in the day! Bring a snack to share if you wish. Everyone is welcome.

***The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. 2021. 400 pages.**

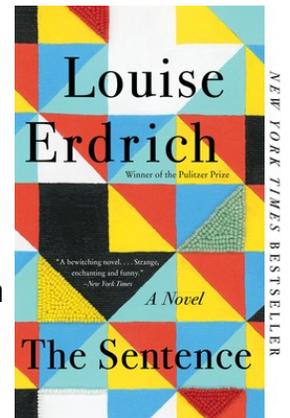
In this stunning and timely novel, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich creates a wickedly funny ghost story, a tale of passion, of a complex marriage, and of a woman's relentless error. Louise Erdrich's latest novel, *The Sentence*, asks what we owe to the living, to the dead, to the reader and to the book.

A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted from November 2019 to November 2020 by the store's most annoying customer. Flora dies on All Soul's Day, but she simply won't leave the store. Tookie, who has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading "with murderous attention," must solve the mystery of this haunting while at the same time surviving all that occurs in Minneapolis during a year of grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning.

The Sentence begins on All Soul's Day 2019 and ends on All Soul's Day 2020. Its mystery and proliferating ghost stories during this one year propel a narrative as rich, emotional, and profound as anything Louise Erdrich has written.

"The irreverent and funny Tookie grapples with the ghost, then the pandemic, then the protests. Her journey, captured in Erdrich's expert prose, is a cathartic and comforting story that book lovers will gobble up." — ***Real Simple***

"Erdrich's playful wit and casual style belie a seriousness of purpose, which in the case of this winning novel, entails tackling the pandemic, the death of George Floyd, the trials of doing time in prison and not least, the power of books to change lives." — ***New York Times Book Review, Editor's Choice***



UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

Chair: Debra Kroon

Denise Edwards

Bill Jacobs

Susan Kaphammer

Linda King

Sunny Sonker

AUCTION

Nancy Born

LIFESPAN LEARNING

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