

UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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

AUGUST 2024

August 4: Coffee — Converse — Create

This week the spotlight will be on the artist in each one of us. Prepare to sculpt or draw your vision of god, the universe or everything. This participatory service for all ages expands upon June's Oh My: God? service as we continue to explore our perceptions of the divine as part of our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Facilitated by Linda King.

August 11: Climate Justice and UUs

From the UU Ministry for Earth's "About" page: "Caring for the interdependent web of life is a core spiritual practice of Unitarian Universalism. UUMFE is firmly rooted in the long history of our faith's prophetic action on environmental and human rights issues." Let's discuss our local and personal connections between UU and climate justice, especially our "spiritual grounding and education for Earth care". We may find support we need through the UUME.

August 18: "The Others" with Lucy Ann Valderhaug

"The Others" friend or enemy? Discussion about those who are different and relating to "them."

August 25: Grab Bag Unitarian Universalism

This coffee and conversation service will focus on what each of us wants to hear. Please bring a paper with your choice of topic written on it. It will be placed in the grab bag with others and the discussion will focus on the ones chosen from the bag. Children and young people's topics will be chosen and featured in the first part of the service. Facilitated by Linda King.

Perspectives from UUCY President...

BUSY TIMES THIS SUMMER AT UUCY

I promised to use my monthly UniFire columns to highlight our congregation's activities and successes. While it is common for congregations to experience some summer slowdowns in activities and energy, UUCY is going the opposite way!

For the first time in several years, UUCY Lifespan Learning is offering this week a series of experiences for young people. Several newer members along with Oksana Edwards and with assistance from Denise Edwards are conducting a week-long morning "camp," called Discovery School: Getting to Know YoUU! Anticipated attendees from toddlers to twelve years old join in activities, crafts, snacks, and general fun from July 29 through August 2.

Our summer services are presented in a "Coffee and Conversation" format that provides for sharing thoughts around a selected topic. We've kept some rituals including our traditional Chalice Lighting and Extinguishing the Flame, reciting our Covenant for Right Relations, sharing Joys and Concerns, and, of course, passing the collection. But the rest of the time is for informal talking, listening and learning among those attending. I am happy to report that we are experiencing robust attendance, totaling over 30 some Sundays! But we will always make room for more around the tables, so keep coming or consider checking us out at 10 AM on Sundays. See the first page of this UniFire for the upcoming topics.

At our July 11 meeting, the board noted the success of our auction fundraiser with net income of \$4400, which exceeded our target. In addition, the auction offered an enjoyable social event for members, friends and guests, with cheerful conversations around the tables between bidding. It was social event fundraisers that brought in the most money, so the conviviality of the auction carries on at dinners, barbeques and the like throughout the coming year. Thanks to Nancy Born for all of her work in making the auction happen. Consider stepping up to take the lead or help for our auction next spring. And remember, it is an event not to be missed!

The board considered questions raised at the annual meeting. Regarding the hiring of a minister, our current income would not meet the significant expense of professional ministry, even part-time, and would require siphoning money from our building fund. The Board is not aware of a strong desire for a minister at this time or a clear consensus of priority between a minister or a purchased space.

Also raised at the annual meeting was the status of the New Home Task Force. The board acknowledged that increased attendance is challenging our current space, especially for programs for children. UUCY is in the middle of a three-year lease for our current space, set to expire May 2026. A lease can be terminated early but likely with extra cost. The previous Task Force had not found a suitable space for purchase, and the current real estate market does not seem favorable to finding something. The board voted to table establishing a formal New Home task force until September 2025. But members are encouraged to keep an eye out for possibilities, gather information about any options and let the board know.

Our active Social Justice Committee recommends choosing a new recipient organization to receive a portion of our non-pledge Sunday giving for our Share the Plate program. The board asks the committee to recommend organizations, and all members are invited to submit ideas. A vote by the congregation will be held the first Sunday of October.

As you can tell, UUCY has THINGS GOING ON! Let's continue with joy in our community!

Susan Kaphammer

DATES TO NOTE: Friday, August 2 – Board Agenda drafted

Thursday, August 8 – 1:00 PM Board Meeting

Susan Kaphammer is the President of the UUCY Board of Trustees for 2024-2026, and can be reached for discussion and comments at any time. Reach out to the office for her contact information.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The team is currently composed of Phil Dindia, chair, Lana Barnes, Bill Jacobs, Chuck Forster and Joy McKinney. The team is meeting twice a month until after the election in November.

We have joined with Climate 350 to defeat the four initiatives on the November ballot that are designed to undo the climate actions already enacted by the legislature. Actions will include distribution of flyers and talking to friends and neighbors about the dangers to the environment and for our children. Vote NO, especially on 2117. We will ask the Association of Faith Ministries, of which the UUCY is a part, to join us.

BETWEEN THE RIDGES

The chair, Rev. David Hacker, will return from a three-month sabbatical in August. Upon his return the fundraising dinner will be scheduled. At the July meeting, we aligned ourselves with efforts to defeat the four initiatives against repeal of the climate action enacted by the state legislature.

UPCOMING LIFESPAN LEARNING ADULT PROGRAMS

Two opportunities are being planned to meet, learn, share, and deepen your experiences at UUCY. Open to members, friends and guests. Watch for further information. Contact Susan Kaphammer or Linda King.

STARTING POINT

“The path of Unitarian Universalism is made rich by everyone’s individual journeys coming together.”

For anyone wanting to look at their own spiritual paths as well as learn more about Unitarian Universalism, these participatory lessons and discussions will be appropriate for those who are new to UU as well as those who have been with us for a while. Tentatively scheduled to begin in late September.

STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Tentatively scheduled for January 2025.

NO ADOPT A HIGHWAY IN AUGUST

Adopt a Highway will not be going out this month due to unpredictably high temperatures and risk of fires or fire smoke. The next day for roadside pickup is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 7, the Saturday following Labor Day. Contact 11denisis@gmail.com with any questions or to register as participant.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday Services Committee: Monday, August 5, 1:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees: Thursday, August 8, 1 p.m.

CHALICE CIRCLES STARTING LATE SUMMER

The Dindias will be hosting the next round of Chalice Circles starting September 10, then weekly through October 15, from 5-7 p.m. A light meal will be provided. It is important that participants attend each session. Please contact Gean Dindia if interested!



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 August!**

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!

PROPOSALS FOR A BETTER WORLD

By Phil Dindia

FAMILY DAY (WEEKEND)

We have done well in celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and memorial days—some with fun, warmth like Mother's Day and Father's Day, workers and students holidays, holy days, national days, veteran's days. We take days off work and school, arrange to be together longer - times to connect more deliberately.

I would like to propose a family weekend, Friday to Monday - days off from work and school, a time to celebrate the wonder and vastness of our family. My wife and I can see, hear and join with relatives on the East Coast from New York to Washington, D.C., and Florida. And on the West Coast - San Francisco, Los Angeles, Tiburon, Fresno, Santa Rosa, Stockton, all in California, and in Italy, both in Florence and Sicily. We connect and join once in a while - a visit, a phone call, a card or letter. There's blood there, specialness, ours.

So, get the card out, new, funny and warm. A zoom gathering of many. A visit to those close by or far. A weekend to reminisce, to weep and rejoice and give thanks. Why not?

A ONE WORLD DAY

As a people we have moved from separateness to oneness, from far to near, from silence to voice, from imagination to real life, from taking care of self to taking care of the planet, from individual countries to United Nations, not just meeting our neighbors but meeting others from far away- a world of people connecting themselves.

This takes a lot of getting used to— to others who are a different color, who dress differently, who speak a different language yet who smile at each other. Children, many who are suffering yet taking care of one another, many whose beliefs are very different yet the touching of hands means the same.

It is no longer possible to stay apart nor is it safe and we are beginning to believe that and want to get together. We have tried to annihilate the different, to enslave them, to ignore them but now, luckily, thankfully, we have failed. Now, as we ask for forgiveness and seek a new way of being together, we have begun to think there is no other way than loving all and accepting differences if we are to survive. Let's celebrate that new vision and take the needed steps to make this one world.

Book Club Selection Offers Compassionate Look At Race, Adoption and Families in General

Everyone is welcome to join our friendly community of readers for the **September Book Club meeting**, on **Thursday, September 12, at 5:00 PM at our church home at 407 N. 1st Street, Suite 3**. We'll be sharing insights and reactions from the celebrated memoir by Nicole Chung, termed, "vital reading for anyone who has ever struggled to figure out where they belong."

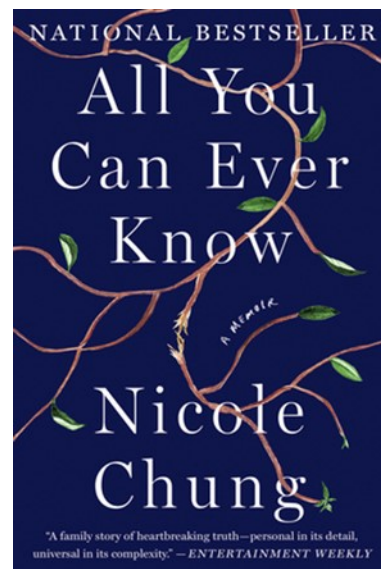
Copies are available in print, electronic and Large Print editions from the Yakima Valley Libraries, and from Inklings Bookshop with a book club discount.

All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir by Nicole Chung. 2019. **256 pages.**

Nicole Chung was born severely premature, placed for adoption by her Korean parents, and raised by a white family in a sheltered Oregon town. From childhood, she heard the story of her adoption as a comforting, prepackaged myth. She believed that her biological parents had made the ultimate sacrifice in the hope of giving her a better life, that forever feeling slightly out of place was her fate as a transracial adoptee.

But as Nicole grew up—facing prejudice her adoptive family couldn't see, finding her identity as an Asian American and as a writer, becoming ever more curious about where she came from—she wondered if the story she'd been told was the whole truth.

With warmth, candor, and startling insight, Nicole Chung tells of her search for the people who gave her up, which coincided with the birth of her own child. *All You Can Ever Know* is a profound, moving chronicle of surprising connections and the repercussions of unearthing painful family secrets.



**Named a Best Book of the Year by *The Washington Post*,
NPR, *Time*, *The Boston Globe*, and more**

"*All You Can Ever Know* is full of insights on race, motherhood, and family of all kinds, but what sets it apart is the compassion Chung brings to every facet of her search for identity and every person portrayed in these pages. This book should be required reading for anyone who has ever had, wanted, or found a family, which is to say, everyone."

— Celeste Ng, author of *Little Fires Everywhere*

"*All You Can Ever Know* honors the grand complexity of love, family, and identity, while showing us how these things can save us and break us with devastating clarity and beauty."

— *Today*

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

CHAIR: Debra Kroon

Denise Edwards

Bill Jacobs

Susan Kaphammer

Linda King

Sunny Sonker

AUCTION

CHAIR POSITION OPEN

Nancy Born

LIFESPAN LEARNING

CHAIR POSITION OPEN

Susan Kaphammer

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia

Lana Barnes

Bill Jacobs

Chuck Forster

Joy McKinney

FINANCE

TREASURER: Janis Luvaas

Bill Jacobs

Your 2024 to 2025 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

<i>Board President</i>	Susan Kaphammer	susanlkap@gmail.com
<i>Board Vice Pres.</i>	Ray Yates	raycyates@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Nancy Born	nancyjborn@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Mary Brunelle	almybrufam@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Chuck Forster	bddirtpile@gmail.com



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