

# UNIFIRE

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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

### APRIL 2025

#### **April 6: All of Us Together**

We welcome Lara Pollock, daughter of beloved former UUCY Minister Greta Crosby. Lara will be sharing from her book *All of Us Together: The Reverend Greta W. Crosby's Vision for Humanity*, a collection of the Reverend Greta W. Crosby's elegant sermons and writings, providing a retrospective representation of her humanitarian legacy. (Excerpted from Amazon Book's description.)

#### **April 13: The Practice of Joy**

Today's service by Susan Kaphammer, part of our Soul Matters series, suggests that we cultivate joy as a spiritual practice. Recognizing moments of "ordinary joys" helps keep our hearts open and our spirits generous. Expressing joy in the face of oppression can be an act of resistance and confirmation of freedom. Allowing joy to arise through times of sorrow and difficulty reminds us of the resilience of happiness and well-being. Join us in celebrating joy.

#### **April 20: Of Easter or Eostre — A Journey Through Springtime Lore**

Join us for a fascinating look into the history and folklore of "Of Easter and Eostre," the ancient spring goddess. Discover the origins of beloved traditions, explore myths and legends, and enjoy a hands-on egg decorating activity for all ages! Come celebrate the season with stories, creativity, and a touch of history. Jen Berry is our facilitator on this day.

#### **April 27: Stewardship Sunday: Give Until It Feels Good**

Various congregation members will introduce our annual stewardship campaign. Information about the church finances will be shared through the next several weeks. But stewardship is as much about the giver as the recipient. Today's message highlights the spiritual growth and rewards of deciding to share your resources in support of our mission and community. With confidence in abundance, we can find our way, individually and together, to joyful generosity.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Why do we do this? A land acknowledgement is a step toward correcting stories and practices that erase indigenous people's history and culture, and it honors the truth.*

*This facility and our community rest on the ancestral lands of the fourteen confederated bands and tribes of the Yakama Nation. The Yakama people inhabited more than twelve million acres across much of central and eastern Washington. Today we honor the native peoples who are tied to this land through history, legend and culture. We thank these caretakers of the land who have lived here since time immemorial. Recognizing that an acknowledgement without action rings hollow, we vow to, as we are able, take action to support and restore this land and our diverse, interdependent community.*

## GAME NIGHT: FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Friday, April 11, starting at 6:30 p.m. bring a game or take potluck with whatever other people bring—there are always plenty of choices. Treats are welcome, but entirely optional.

## LIFESPAN LEARNING MEETING

The Lifespan Learning Committee and friends will meet briefly following the April 6 service. There will be an update on the Everyday Awakenings conversation group as well as possibilities for both adult and children's programming!

## REV. PATRICK T. O'NEILL OBITUARY & MEMORIAL SERVICE



Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Rev. Patrick T. O'Neill passed away on February 11; he served as the minister of UUCY from 1979 to 1983(?). Read his obituary at the link below:

<https://www.elementalnw.com/obituaries/reverend-doctor-patrick-thomas-aquinas-oneill/314/>

A memorial will be held on April 12 at 2 p.m., at University Unitarian Church in Seattle and will also be streamed at [www.uuchurch.org/memorial](http://www.uuchurch.org/memorial).

## *Perspectives from UUCY President...*

### **GENEROSITY: WE CULTIVATE A SPIRIT OF GRATITUDE AND HOPE**

**We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.**

*from UUA Statement of Shared Values*

Every year at our annual meeting in June our congregation adopts a fiscal year budget for our activities and our presence in Yakima. I bring this up now because this month we begin our stewardship process that invites everyone to consider their relationships with our church, their responsibilities to support UUCY, and the spiritual growth and rewards of generosity.

This is about money, an often uncomfortable topic. But as a religious community, we can see money not just as dollars and cents to be counted and held and often reluctantly spent. Rather, we recognize money as a neutral carrier for our personal values, intentions and commitment that can “bless or curse” the world. Instead of simple fundraising, we invite engagement with stewardship, which is about the giver as much or more than about the receiver. As we proceed with our stewardship campaign, our messages will include conversations about both money and spirit, and the union of values and money.

First, I want to speak plainly about membership and giving at UUCY.

We make a distinction between “visitors,” “friends,” and “members.” Visitors are always welcome at services and all church activities. Either at their first visit or later, individuals and families may provide their contact information and be added to our “Friends” list. They receive, usually by email, our publications: The UniFire monthly newsletter and our UUCY weekly update, email notice of service topic and events sent every Thursday. There is no timeline for transitioning from “friend” to “member.” Friends are valued and may participate in activities and committee work. They are invited to contribute to financial support.

Becoming a member includes signing the membership book and making a “financial contribution of record” to UUCY. Members have full privileges and responsibilities, including voting at congregational meetings and the opportunity to serve as an officer of the congregation. A few times a year, new members are recognized and welcomed at a Sunday service. From our UUCY Constitution, Article IV on Membership:

*Sec. 1. Any person who is in sympathy with our purpose and program may become a member of this church by signing the membership book. Members must be at least 18 years of age to vote.*

*Sec. 2. No subscription to creed or participation in ceremony shall be required of any person joining the church. Neither shall distinctions of race, creed, color, nationality, sexual orientation, or other religious affiliation affect any person's right of membership.*

*Sec. 3. Each member or household shall make to the church a financial contribution of record in each fiscal year, beginning with the fiscal year in which the membership book is signed. This provision may be waived by the Board of Trustees (hereinafter Board) as to any specific member.*

*Sec. 4. Any member who has not made a contribution of record within a fiscal year (unless this provision has been waived) shall be requested to indicate intent relative to membership and will not be considered a voting member until a contribution of record is pledged. Any member who has been so notified but has not made a contribution of record within the 90 days immediately following such notice may be removed from the church membership roll.*

*(continued on next page—keep reading!)*

## *Perspectives from UUCY President...*

The “financial contributions of record” from members accounts for around 70% of UUCY’s annual budget. (Additional revenue comes from fundraising, investments, other gifts and donations, and the collection plate.) During our annual stewardship campaign members are asked for their pledge, their intended contribution to UUCY for the following year. Pledging is also open to friends who have not signed the membership book but who wish to commit to supporting our church. Pledge payments can be submitted by bank transfer, by check mailed or hand-delivered, or by PayPal or credit card on our website at: <https://www.uucyakima.org/connection/donate/>.

At every Sunday service baskets are passed for “sharing generosity and commitment” to collect contributions from those in attendance. Pledges placed in the basket need to be marked as such, either in the memo line of a check or by placing currency in an envelope with the contributor’s name. (Envelopes for such contributions will be made available each Sunday.) If a member has not yet pledged an amount, but still donates money at a service, this money can fulfill the “financial contribution of record” if the member is identified. However, unless clearly marked as a pledge payment, checks and currencies that are collected at services are tallied and a quarter of these proceeds are forwarded to our chosen “sharing the plate” local charity.

Current annual pledges average \$1530, with a range from \$100 to \$8400 for the year. There is no minimum (nor maximum) for financial contributions of record. And, no one is denied membership related to ability to contribute; our constitution provides for waiver by the Board of the financial requirement. Just provide the president with a simple written request.

Remember amidst all this practical talk about money, stewardship calls us to act from our spiritual value of generosity. We can begin asking ourselves...

Have I found community, belonging and purpose at UUCY? What then, can I do to sustain this and welcome others?

What portion of the resources that flow through my life can I put toward my hopes, blessings, ideals and commitments?

What would it mean to give until it feels good?!

Take care,

*Susan Kaphammer*, president

***Note for those involved in committees, activities and programs:  
Begin considering plans for the next fiscal year – July 2025  
through June 2026. Budget requests need to be received by the  
Finance Committee before May 23.***

### **DATES TO NOTE:**

**Friday, April 4 – board agenda drafted; committee reports due**

**Thursday, April 10 – 1:00 p.m., board meeting — open to all**

*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.*

## **CHALICE CIRCLE**

***April 29; May 6, 3, 20 & 27; June 3 at UUCY***

Gean Dindia will be organizing another Chalice Circle, weekly meetings to share in understanding and deepening our engagement with spiritual topics. This time around will be held at UUCY with participants supplying finger food. Open to 6-10 people. Look for the signup sheet at church!

## **COFFEE MATTERS**



Whether you like coffee, tea, or just a glass of water, join the Community Coffee group on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. for casual conversation. We gather at **Catalyst Coffee** (102 N. Naches Ave.)

## **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!

## **WHALECOAST ALASKA**

### **A MORE AUTHENTIC TRAVEL EXPERIENCE!**

Two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by 4 Alaska UU congregations are being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For 31 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience!

Details: [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org)

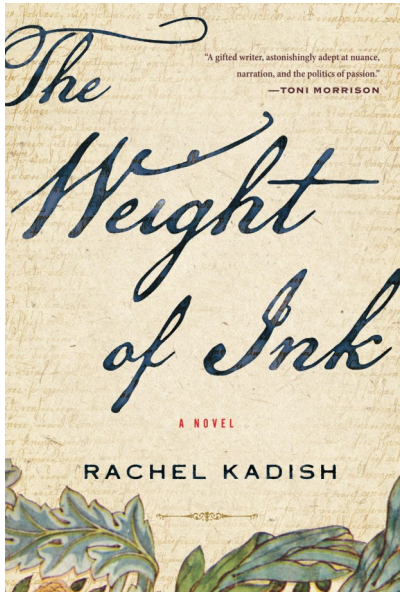
Questions: [info@whalecoastak.org](mailto:info@whalecoastak.org)



# MAY 2025 BOOK CLUB SELECTION

The March gathering of our UUCY Book Club, facilitated by our leaders, Gean Dindia and Rosemary Saul, was a small but lively group engaged in discussion of the NY Times Bestselling historical fiction book *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin.

Our next selection is another historical fiction, this time set in two time periods: 1660s and modern day London. GoodReads says: “Electrifying and ambitious, sweeping in scope and intimate in tone, *The Weight of Ink* is a sophisticated work of historical fiction about women separated by centuries, and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order reconcile the life of the heart and mind.”



## **The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish**

From the author herself: “My novel *The Weight of Ink* reaches back in time to ask the question: what does it take for a woman not to be defeated when everything around her is telling her to sit down and mind her manners? I started writing with two characters in mind, both women who don’t mind their manners: a contemporary historian named Helen Watt and a seventeenth century Inquisition refugee named Ester Velasquez. It’s been a delight working on their story.”



The first Sunday of April, Rosemary Saul will have eight copies of *The Weight of Ink* from the Yakima Valley Libraries Book Club kit to distribute. Copies are also available on Kindle, with print and electronic editions available at the Yakima Valley Libraries, and from Inklings Bookshop; indicate it is a book club selection for a discount.

Then plan to meet on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 5:00 PM at our church home at 407 N 1st Street, Suite 3 to share your thoughts and reactions to the novel.

# UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**CHAIR:** Debra Kroon

Jen Berry

Denise Edwards

Bill Jacobs

Susan Kaphammer

Linda King

Sunny Sonker

## AUCTION

*CHAIR POSITION OPEN*

Nancy Born

## LIFESPAN LEARNING

**FACILITATOR:** Linda King

Susan Kaphammer

## FINANCE

**TREASURER:** Janis Luvaas

Bill Jacobs

Kia Tudor

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia

Lana Barnes

Bill Jacobs

Chuck Forster

Joy McKinney

## MEMBERSHIP

**CO-CHAIRS:** Lana Barnes

& Jen Berry

Denise Edwards

### Your 2024 to 2025 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

**Board President** Susan Kaphammer [susanlap@gmail.com](mailto:susanlap@gmail.com)

**Board Vice Pres.** Ray Yates [raycyates@gmail.com](mailto:raycyates@gmail.com)

**Trustee** Nancy Born [nancyjborn@gmail.com](mailto:nancyjborn@gmail.com)

**Trustee** Mary Brunelle [almybrufam@gmail.com](mailto:almybrufam@gmail.com)

**Trustee** Chuck Forster [bddirtpile@gmail.com](mailto:bddirtpile@gmail.com)

*UUCY OFFICE: 407 N. 1st St, Ste 3, 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.)*