

Spiritually Speaking. . . newsletter

From the President

Well, here we are; headed smack into the Christmas season. By this time the hobgoblins have come and gone; the turkey feast has been consumed and the kitchen cleaned up. Folks are turning their minds toward the giving season and wondering who to give what. Our spiritual family is also headed into our giving season. Soon new teddy bears will be filling the sanctuary. We will be filling the teddy bears with love to share with traumatized children. We will be thinking of the families we can gift with the new gifts we bring and send with love and the tidings of the season. Our church will be decorated and festive. We will be looking forward with anticipation to our Twelve Powers Christmas Candle Lighting Service and the love we share with each other.

We remember all the things and people we are thankful for and all the work our family here at Unity has done this past year. We paid off our loan two years early!! Whoop Whoop!!

We managed to survive our first entire year without an official minister (and done so quite nicely, thank you.) We've heard some amazing speakers. One of my favorites was the Arborist who shared with us. I had no idea trees were sentient beings. We got acquainted with and came to love Reverend Libby O'Day. Thank you, Lucinda, for sharing her with us. We got to share in the joy when Reverend Cheryl married Jackson Mayes. We installed security gates to protect our facility. We took steps to make sure our home is safe for everyone. We replaced a window in the downstairs class room. Folks stepped up to fund projects when we found ourselves a little low. We had our Harvest Dinner and shared the bounty of the harvest. We had our Annual Membership Meeting and elected our new Board of Trustees. The previous Board members have passed the baton to the new Board. We are so grateful for their service. You can tell who they are by the big smiles on their faces! We are anxious to get to work. We are making plans, rolling up our sleeves and taking stock. We are anxious to hear from you also. Talk to us; let us know what you like, what you don't like; what you would like to see changed and what you want left alone. We are here to be of service to you, our Spiritual Family.

Blessings to each and every one of us! Cheers.....

~barb allen



December 2019

Our Vision

A world powerfully transformed through the growing movement of a shared spiritual awakening.

Our Mission

We empower individuals to collectively transform the world.



Our Minister Affirmation

We affirm our new minister is love in action, wise, joyous, a dynamic leader, open hearted and an inspiring teacher. We excitedly welcome our new minister who is here in God's Perfect Timing. We see it, we claim and affirm it. And so it is. Thank you, God!

401 S. 8th Avenue -Yakima WA 98902
509-575-5551

Dial-A-Blessing: 426-4988

Website: UnityYakima.org

Email: Minister@UnityYakimaMail.org

Office: Chris@UnityYakimaMail.org

Sunday Celebration - 10:30am

Office hours - 10:30 am - 3:30 pm



*Transforming lives
through spiritual growth*



Unity's Youth & Family Ministry

SURVEY

Please take a moment and give your feedback for the Youth Ministry. We are committed to providing a positive, affirming, spiritual education and would like your input on what you and your children would like to see. Please return to the office.

How many children (ages 0-18) do you have in your household or do you know that would want to participate in USLC youth program (grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc.)? _____ What age groups are they?

0-3 3-6 7-11 12-15 16-18

What activities would they be most interested in?

How often would you bring them to service (per month)

1 2 3 4

Where are your children currently getting their spiritual education?

What is it that your child likes about a program they are or have participated in?

Do you have any youth who would be interested in participating in a brainstorming session for the youth group? If yes, please include your name and phone number here.

How important do you feel it is for children to have a solid spiritual foundation?

1 2 3 4 5

Not important Very Important

How much would you be willing to contribute towards your child's spiritual education per month?



The Oneness Blessing is Back!

*The first Sunday of each month,
9:45am—10:15am
Downstairs in the Library*

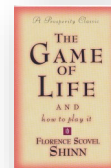


Wednesday Morning Group

Mequqda Wolung'olon

This class meets every Wednesday from 10:45-noon. Beforehand, from 10:20-10:45am, there is quiet meditation with music in the sanctuary.

Starting Dec 4th: "The Game of Life and How to Play It"
~by Florence Scovel Shinn



All are welcome!



Come check out

the Imagineers



We want to hear your ideas!

The 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 4:30 -5:30pm, we will gather to listen, discuss, and brainstorm ideas people have for our spiritual community.

*Do you have ideas for a fundraiser, decorations that might really add to our décor, ideas about the website or newsletter, a different way of distributing information, or something else entirely? **We want to hear it! Any and all ideas are welcome!***

All ideas will be documented, discussed and either tabled for further discussion or we'll implement the first step. You don't have to join the group, but you may want to come often to hear the ideas being brought up.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 12/10.

Support Groups that meet at Unity **Alcoholics Anonymous: "The Early Birds"** Mon, Wed & Fri - 6:30am,
"Step Sisters" closed women's group - Wednesday - 2:00pm **"Sisters in Sobriety"** closed women's group - Thursdays - 6:00pm
& **Al-Anon: "Steps to Recovery"** Every Wednesday— 5:30pm

Sunday Celebration Services 10:30am

December 1 The Perfection of Generosity

Guest Speaker: Marilyn Holloway

In this season of giving, is a talk about the full scope of generosity and what it means from a Buddhist perspective.

December 8 Judaism 101

Guest Speaker: Betty Mann

Betty will be discussing: Who is a Jew, Judaism as a religion, Jews as a people, Judaism as an ethical and moral system and Judaism as a way of life. Our view of why we are here, and of the purpose of life.

December 15 Christmas: A Season of the Heart

Guest Speaker: Marilyn Freed

Christmas is not just for a certain time of the year any more than love, peace, joy, and goodwill are for a certain time of year. As we look at it's deeper meaning, we can discover ways to experience the mystery and the magic all year long.

December 19, Thursday, 7:00 pm

*12 Powers Christmas
Candle Lighting Service*



December 22 Beckoning the Light: A Winter Solstice

Guest Speaker: Colleen Renee

Winter Solstice brings us the longest and darkest day of the year - an opportunity to both acknowledge the gift of darkness and to beckon the rebirth of the light within. Through story and song, Colleen invites us to appreciate the beauty in this season of reflection, to respect the darkness and to reflect on who we are. She also invites us to find ways to become beacons, connecting with what wants to be given light in our own lives, in our community and in the world.

December 29 Burning Bowl Ceremony

Guest Speaker: Marilyn Holloway

Come join us at Unity as we release old thoughts that no longer serve us and welcome in fresh intentions for the year ahead. We actually transform those old thoughts in the fire of the Christ light, watching the paper they were written on disappear in the burning bowl. Then, we each write desires of our hearts in a Letter to God, seal it in an envelope, and see how things worked out when we get the letter back next December. What a great way to finish out the year!



Winter Solstice

YULE LOG CANDLE CLASS

Saturday, Dec. 14th at 10:00am



In Celebration of the Winter Solstice and Yule Celebration also known as the 12 days of Christmas, we would like to invite you to come and pick out a Yule Log Candle Holder and decorate it with the Symbolic greens which are meant to bring you good fortune and abundance in the New Year.

The word Yule is Old English for the Winter Solstice Festival celebrated by many civilizations in Northern Europe. The Yule Log symbolizes an offering as a bid for good health, abundance and the return of the light going into the New Year.

On the Winter Solstice, the Celts would go out and get their Yule Log and decorate it with symbolic or magical plants/ evergreens to be burnt throughout the days of the Winter Solstice Celebrations. The Yule Log was to counter the darkness and bring good fortune and abundance in the New Year.

As hearths in homes became too small to burn a whole log, the tradition became to have a small log that they would drill holes in for candles and then they would decorate with symbolic evergreens just as they did with the Yule Logs of past times. The ancient Celt Traditions say that the Yule Log must never be paid for but gathered or gifted.

We invite you to come and join us for some Pre-Winter Solstice fun. Please come, pick your Yule log and decorate it with our magical greens to honor the return of the Sun or Light. We will provide the logs, ribbon or twine, greens and light refreshments as well as some more fun info on symbolisms of the Solstice Yule Log, the Magical Greens and the three colors of the candles.

We are also looking for donations of :

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Small or med sized pine cones | Holly or Oregon Grape boughs/ branches |
| Pine or Fir boughs/branches | Mistletoe - a little goes a long ways |
| Ivy | |

Space limited to 20 people—you must sign up to attend. A Love Offering will be taken




**The Sign Up Sheets for the
12 Powers Christmas Candle Light Service
is out!**


We need readers, greeters and candle lighters.

Rod's House Winter Shelter Meal

Sandy Bullock has been volunteering at Rod's House Winter Shelter and thought it would be nice to cook them a meal once a month. Sandy will do all the cooking and there's a sign up sheet if you'd like to donate ingredients or if you'd like to give money, please memo your donation "Rod's House". Thank you, Sandy!



Secret Santa!

Who wants to play? On Sunday, Dec. 8th we'll draw names and on Sunday, Dec. 22nd we'll exchange gifts. If you put your name in, you can draw one out.

Please limit gifts to \$5-\$10.

Financial Report

November Operational Income: **\$5935**

Planned Monthly Income: **\$9000**

Expenses: **\$5942** Planned Monthly Expenses: **\$9000**

We gratefully share what we receive! Unity believes in the spiritual practice of tithing.

As we share our income with others, we also generously receive.

In November we tithed 10% of our total income to:

Unity Worldwide Ministries, Unity NW Region, Silent Unity and Unity of Vancouver



Minister Search Team

The Search Team and the Board will be working together to reword some of our Ministerial Packet that the minister applicants look at to see what we are all about. We'd like to emphasize the fact that since we've been without a minister for over a year we are still doing lots of events, have great guest speakers every Sunday, bringing in new members and paying all our bills. We are a high functioning spiritual community looking for the right and perfect minister to join us and take us to the next level. We'll be working on pulling together pictures of all our events and happenings to create a slide show that the applicant can view on our YouTube channel and see all our faces doing things we love to do. We believe this will make us look much more attractive, stand out from the rest and really give them a feel of who and what we are all about. The Search Team will be meeting in December to start on this and we're excited!

Thanks for all your support!

Leslie Smyer



Keep the bears coming!

We'd love to have
a bear for every chair
by Sunday, December 15th.



Every year we sponsor one or two families for Christmas. Our little tree in the foyer will be filled with tags to make buying gifts for them easy, thanks to **Leslie Smyer**, who does this for us every year!

Each tag will have one item on it, such as "14yo Girl - pants, size 12" or "men's socks". You choose the tag, buy that gift, wrap it, put a tag with "family #1 or family #2, girl or boy and age, then put it under the big tree at our center!

***You can also split a purchase with another congregant*

Thank you for giving them a blessed Christmas !



A *positive path*
for *spiritual living*

401 S. 8th Avenue - Yakima WA 98902

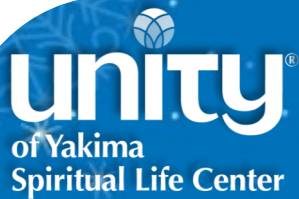
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you do not want to receive this newsletter,
please mark the box and return to your letter carrier

December 2019

**We're on the Web:
www.UnityYakima.org**

Sent with love and blessings to:

The logo for Unity of Yakima Spiritual Life Center, featuring the word "unity" in a stylized white font with a small globe icon above the "y", and "of Yakima Spiritual Life Center" in a smaller white font below it.

*12 Powers
Christmas Candle Lighting
Service*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19th at 7:00 pm

All are
welcome to
this beautiful
and spiritually
empowering
Unity service.

401 S. 8th Ave
Yakima WA

