



The Wy'east Beacon

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

*Whoever you are,
Wherever you come from,
You are welcome here*

Wy'east : Ancient name for Mount Hood

WWW.WYEASTUU.ORG

July/August

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*Wy'east meets at the
Hollywood Senior Center
(HSC) at 1820 NE 40th,
Portland, Oregon.*

*The parking lot of the
U.S. Bank around the
corner is available for
Wy'east on Sundays.
That's at the corner of
Northeast 41st Avenue
and Hancock Street.
Please make use of it!*

Written Offerings – from Rev. Craig Moro

I have been enjoying many opportunities to get to know the Wy'east UU congregation for the past 3 months. Now that summer is upon us, I want to let you know what I hope to be doing with you in the near future.

Most summers, I will not be leading Sunday services; however, since we just began our time together in April of this year, it would have felt very awkward to suddenly disappear for two months! I look forward to sharing one service with you in July and one in August.

Starting in September I will be speaking on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. I will also be leading a 6 or 7 part class on UU history on selected Saturdays at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church. Watch for the announcement in August! After the first of the New Year, I hope to lead either a class on UU Principles or one on Islam, depending on interest (and, of course, on events and developments in our wider world).

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

| | | |
|------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 7/3 | Picnic at Creston Park | |
| 7/10 | Write Mercy and Live | Rev. Craig Moro |
| 7/17 | National Ice Cream Day | Linda Macpherson |
| 7/24 | The Seattle Organ Transplant Community | Vanessa Whitacre |
| 7/31 | Waking Up To Who You Really Are | James Hilgendorf |
| 8/7 | Pick One, Pick 'em All | Rev. Craig Moro |
| 8/14 | Finding Hope For Deep and Lasting Change | Jocelyn Furbush |
| 8/21 | What Does Dementia Make You Think of? | Rev. Kate McGraw |
| 8/28 | Activism, Mysticism, and Response-Ability | Zarod Rominski |

(For Sermon Details, See "2 Months Of Sundays", On Pages 6 & 7)

Written Offerings

(Continued from page 1)

Some of my sermons may come in series form. Each one will stand alone, but I think you'll enjoy them even more if you come to hear them all.

Come spring, it might be a good time for a one- or two-day workshop on writing our own "elevator speeches"—what you would say to explain our UU faith tradition in the time it takes to ride with someone from the first to the sixth floor of a building. (I also like to think of it as a "front porch speech," one that we might give to those earnest solicitors who come knocking at our doors to offer us the keys to Heaven!)

I look forward to all of these activities and many more ways to get to know you better. Have a pleasant summer. Be careful in the heat, the sun, and around those cold, cold rivers!

In fellowship,
Craig Moro

[Rev. Moro can be reached by email, cmoro@willamette.edu or by phone at 503-851-4757, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. most days, except in an emergency.]

Contacting RE & the Board of Trustees

Contact the **Religious Education Committee Chair** if you have questions about our children's programming at Wy'east: wyeast-re@googlegroups.com.

If you have questions for the **Wy'east Board of Trustees**, you can send an email to wyeast-board@googlegroups.com or talk to any board member on Sundays at church.

The new **Wy'east Board** has moved the regular board meeting time to the **third Tuesday of the month**. The next two meetings are on July 19th and August 16th. Both meetings will be at a board member's home. All Wy'east members and friends are welcome to attend our meetings. If you are interested in attending a meeting you can send an email to wyeast-board@googlegroups.org, call the Wy'east office at (503)777-3704 and leave a message, or talk to any board member at a Sunday service.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is August 18th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book reviews, and favorite spiritual practices to: wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com. If you have any questions, contact Sharai E. or send an email to the above address. To save paper and printing costs, we are printing fewer copies of the newsletter. We encourage you to view it online, at: <http://wyeastuu.org/newsletter/>. If you would like to receive an email notification when the next issue is available online, send an email to wyeast.newsletter@gmail.com with the subject line: "Let me know".

Wy'camp Volunteers Needed



Every summer, we invite the Wy'east adults to hang out with our kids one Sunday morning each and share something they're interested in. We're looking for a different adult every week to bring in a 15 minute activity. (Wee Works is a fun place, so the kids are happy to play with all the toys the rest of the time.)

You could bring and read a favorite children's book, or bring an object you found when traveling, or some other activity. Our childcare person, Fiona, will be there as well to help with the youngest kids most weeks. (We also need a few extra volunteers for when Fiona is out of town on vacation – not to plan any activity, but just to keep the herd of children safe.)

Thank you to everyone who has signed up already. We need someone to lead the activity on the following Sundays: 8/14, 8/21, and 9/4. If you're interested in a Sunday, please let Anders know!

Special Collections for July and August

July: OREGON LATINO HEALTH COALITION

From the website: Established in 2004, the Oregon Latino Health Coalition is a collaboration of individuals and organizations dedicated to promoting health and wellness and reducing Latino health disparities through advocacy, prevention, education, and sharing of resources. [For instance, with education]: First, the coalition will increase competency and knowledge within Latino communities and among policy makers, providers, and the general public through leadership, communication, training, and developing relationships with institutions and organizations. Second, the coalition will increase health literacy and health education within Latino communities through social marketing and training.

(www.orlhc.org)



August: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

Every day, the UUSC takes action to promote economic justice, bolster environmental justice, and protect rights at risk. No matter when or where, we work to deliver aid with dignity, and to advance the rights of people who might otherwise be left behind. People and communities have a right to make the decisions that affect them. In our global work to advance human rights and challenge injustice, we work closely with local organizations to gather resources and build resilience. We place a high value on eye-to-eye partnerships. Instead of telling people what to do, we ask questions, listen to answers, engage in a dialogue,



offer expertise, and develop creative strategies — all with deep respect for the strength, autonomy, and wisdom of everyone we meet. (www.uusc.org)

Emotional wisdom

from **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS:**

“The world is violent and mercurial – it will have its way with you. We are saved only by love – love for each other and the love that we pour into the art we feel compelled to share: being a parent; being a writer, being a painter; being a friend. We live in a perpetually burning building, and what we must save from it, all the time, is love.”

The Amoeba Hope of Orlando

So I'm at the drive-through coffee shop in my neighborhood where I usually go daily, dawn early to last call. The coffee is black and hot, with two scoops of yummy chocolate thrown in. The college-age staff are uniformly picked for their perky looks, male and female, but not their activist politics.

We talk regardless, with them trained to fish for what's up-beat and me not taking the shallow bait. They don't dodge questions though, like mine about their changing majors and hoped-for careers. Some know my first name, and I theirs, yet it's the respect for one another that matters.

It's two mornings after the massacre of forty-nine folks at a gay nightclub in Florida. The woman serving me has on a rousing red t-shirt that says "I stand with," but there's nothing on the line left blank above it. In answer to my question, she says, "I'm supposed to write something in, but I haven't done it." I suggest Orlando. And she replies, cautiously but honestly, "That was horrible, wasn't it."

I leave, reminded of amoebas; here we are, seven billion humans on the earth, bumping into one another in a planetary Petri dish. Does any of this make much difference? If we speak up or shut up, who changes direction as a result?

Six mornings earlier, I encountered an emergency room nurse over courtesy coffee at the credit union. I said that twenty years beforehand, I'd twice seen this wrenching, graphic, anti-gun slide show presented by a powerhouse female doctor from the same ER. I asked the nurse if she might take up the anti-gun cause. She smiled knowingly and nodded.

In this tragic week, that was just three days prior to the death of Christina Grimmie, age 22, the talented singer shot signing autographs after her concert, also in Orlando. She was new to me, but then I watched several of her inspired YouTube performances. Here was so much promise. So much innocence. I felt the future of our country was being cut down, cut short. It hurt badly.

And with the next night came the club massacre of vibrant, gay lives. I wasn't able until today to watch the video of their bios, but I finally did, thank you, dear Anderson Cooper. Here was too much love lost. The lovers who died together being shot, probably embracing. I haven't known where in me to put that pain. So I've written what you are reading. One tearful, hopeful amoeba to another.

—Mark Alter

In preparation for our search for a new minister the ministerial search committee used a questionnaire to collect some demographic information about our congregation. Below is an excerpt from our search document.

Who We Are

We are a Welcoming Congregation with approximately 55 members and 19 children. The average attendance is about 40. Almost a third of the congregation is families with children, a little over a third is adults over 50 and a little less than a third is young adults. All age groups are very active in the congregation. The last two board moderators have been young adults. Approximately 60% of the congregation is women.

Most of the members of the congregation have college degrees. Half of them have completed graduate work. There is a wide range of income. The median income is near to that of the Portland area.

Our congregation is an eclectic mix of traditions. Some of the traditions that inspire our congregants, in order of popularity, are: Buddhism, Humanism, Christianity, Judaism, Pagan Traditions, Agnosticism, Taoism, Islam, Atheism, Transcendentalism. Others put themselves down on our survey for “a little of everything!” Many of our congregants feel that their spiritual life is grounded in the connectedness of all things, that powers traditionally attributed to deity are inherent in the natural world, that family rituals are important to them, and they try to live in harmony with nature. Many also express openness to explore the possibility of a Higher Power, but do not know whether one exists or not.

Our members of are many kinds of sexual persuasions. Wy'east is a proud member of the Community of Welcoming Congregations. Additionally we are certified by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation. We often march in Portland's annual Gay Pride Parade.

When asked why they attend a Unitarian Universalist church the members almost entirely responded that it is to be a part of a community that celebrates common values. The majority of members say that their affiliation with the congregation is central to their identity as an individual.



We truly live by our covenant:

We covenant with each other as a community of Love.

We will become our deepest and truest selves together.

We will be cared for, and we will be called on to care for others.

We will stumble, but will restore one another and begin again in Love.

In recent years there have been several instances of severe illnesses among the members. These people were truly cared for with members offering rides, food and comfort during their period of recovery. We had a tragic death after one of our services. The person was estranged from his family and had little resources. The congregation made the necessary arrangements for his internment and memorial service.

This gives you a picture of our congregation. We're also a compassionately evolving work in progress.

Getting Connected @ Wy'east

Join the Wy'east Google Groups

Wy'east has two community-wide email lists through Google: “Wyeast” (for news and announcements about church events) and “Wyeast-chat” (an informal way for members and friends to share thoughts or events that are not official church happenings). To subscribe to these groups...

go to **www.wyeastuu.org/contact**

or **groups.google.com/group/wyeast**

and **groups.google.com/group/wyeast-chat**

Wy'east Directory

Wy'east has a directory of contact information for lots of people in the community. If you don't know where to find the directory, you're probably not in it; emails are sent periodically to everyone in the directory with instructions on how to access it. If you'd like to be added to our directory, please contact Hank H.

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in July & August

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in the future, please contact Linda M., Larry B., Paul H., Paul S.,

July 3

- **Picnic at Creston Park • 11:00 am**
- No events at Hollywood Senior Center



July 10

- **Potluck Brunch • 11:30 am.** Bring a dish to share.

July 17

- **Sundae Bar Social Hour • 11:30 am**

July 24

- **Social Hour • 11:30 am**

July 29-30 Rummage Sale

It's time to clean out your closets for our annual garage sale. This year it won't be in a garage, it will be at the Hollywood Senior Center at a joint fundraiser with HSC on Friday afternoon, July 29 and all day Saturday, July 30. We'll be collecting items in July and looking for volunteers to sort, price and staff the sale.

July 31

- **Social Hour • 11:30 am**

August 7

- **Social Hour • 11:30 am**

August 14

- **Potluck Brunch • 11:30 am.** Bring a dish to share.

August 21

- **Social Hour • 11:30 am**
- **Seniors Group • 12:00 noon**

August 28

- **Social Hour • 11:30 am**
- **Wy'east Poetry Group • 12:00 noon**

Sunday Potlucks

Our potlucks will be held on **July 10th** and **August 14th.**
Bring a dish to share.



POETRY GROUP FOR JULY & AUGUST

The Poetry Group will not be meeting this summer. We'll resume our gatherings on the 4th Sunday of September.

SENIORS GROUP

The Seniors Group at Wy'east will not meet in July. We will meet as usual (on the third Sunday in August) at the home of Barbara R., close by the Senior Center. Barbara always makes something good to eat, and others bring things to go with it. The monthly topic is engaging – be it past, present, or future. And the definition of senior is flexible – your choice.

July 3 PICNIC AT CRESTON PARK

In lieu of our regular Sunday service, we will have our annual Summer Picnic at **Creston Park** on SE Powell and 43rd Ave. Please bring a food and/or drink to share. There is a barbecue pit and lots of room for kids to run! Starting time is 11:00 AM, instead of our usual 10:30.

Picnic: 11:00 a.m. There will be no regular service at the Senior Center. There will be no RE.

July 10 WRITE MERCY AND LIVE

We could call the first two decades of our new millennium the time of the suicide bomber and the mass shooter—so common and pervasive have such acts become. What happened in Orlando last month reminds us that these are not just things that happen someplace “over there”.

We often hear that “religious” thoughts and feelings set such acts in motion. So, how can we respond to them “religiously”? What do we learn from our second UU principle, in which we “covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations”? Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Wy’east Potluck Brunch: 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

July 17 NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY

With **Linda Macpherson** coordinating, we will honor this summer-time treat. Like we do in our traditional November bread service, we’ll hear stories from some members of our congregation of the connection, joy and traditions that surround ice cream in our lives. Don’t miss our Sundae Bar Social Hour!

Service: 10:30 a.m.

There will be no Wy’camp, as this is an intergenerational service. Childcare will be available.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

July 24 THE SEATTLE ORGAN TRANSPLANT COMMUNITY

Vanessa Whitacre, a liver transplant recipient, and soon to be kidney transplant recipient, will speak on the healing connections people in this situation have made, from support groups, to an every Saturday morning walking group of 100 people, to creating temporary housing for the families of folks undergoing hospital treatment, so that they can be near their loved ones. She’ll also share the difference community has played in her healing and state of mind.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers. **Social Hour:** Join us for refreshments after the service.

July 31 WAKING UP TO WHO YOU REALLY ARE

A filmmaker and the author of ten non-fiction books, as well as a book of poetry, **James Hilgendorf** will present some Buddhist perspectives on life and death, the real nature of our own lives, and our connection to the universe around us; including thoughts from Leo Tolstoy, John Wheeler, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Kenneth Ring, Joseph Campbell, and Daisaku Ikeda. He and his wife Elizabeth have been practitioners of Soka Gakkai Buddhism for forty-three years.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers. **Social Hour:** Join us for refreshments after the service.

August 7 PICK ONE, PICK ‘EM ALL

A little girl’s drawings lead us into some of the deepest waters of classic Universalist spirituality. Come today and meet The Blob Family! Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

August 14 FINDING HOPE FOR DEEP AND LASTING CHANGE

Since the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the UU Service Committee and the UU College of Social Justice have assisted Haitian partners at the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) in building six sustainable eco-villages, which now house families from the refugee camps of Port-au-Prince who lost their homes. **Jocelyn Furbush** from Wy’east participated in one of the service learning trips in 2012 and will share reflections from her experience.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Wy’east Potluck Brunch: 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

August 21 WHAT DOES DEMENTIA MAKE YOU THINK OF?

Rev. Kate McGraw, newly ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Willamette Falls, works as a chaplain with elders in their last years. She especially loves to journey with people who are living with dementia, a disease that brings up interesting questions, both for the people living with it and for the rest of us. We’ll explore some of them together.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

August 28 ACTIVISM, MYSTICISM, AND RESPONSE-ABILITY

Voices call from multiple levels, locations, needs, desires. Tragedies and blessings co-exist. How do we respond, how do we be authentic? **Zarod Rominski**, former Associate Executive Director of Outside In for 17 years, shares poetry and journal writings as she reflects on layers of change in culture, politics and spirituality from the ‘60s to the present.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.



Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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