



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 2015

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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!*

From the Minister

Roger Housden writes, "To say goodbye with all our heart is to turn a parting into a blessing. Goodbye is derived from the phrase 'God be with you.' A blessing is the offering of one heart to another; to another person, to a situation, to life itself."

All too soon, the time will come for us to say goodbye. It has indeed been a blessing to have been your minister these past five years. We have grown and changed and done good work together. When I think of all the good things we've done in our community, and all the people who weren't a part of the congregation then, but are now—well, I feel pretty proud of what we have accomplished together.

The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, "No one ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same person." Another five years from now, Wy'east will not be the same congregation. Whoever you choose to be your minister will not be the same person as I am. They will bring their own gifts and strengths to you. You will learn new things and the water will continue to flow. Each new visitor will arrive and stay, or not, and bring their own interests and passions. Our current members will have new life experiences that they bring to Wy'east.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

7/5	Picnic at Creston Park	
7/12	Strength, Service, and Vision	Molli Mitchell
7/19	The Question Box	Rev. Marcia Stanard
7/26	The 5th Principle and the General Assembly	Robyn Klopp
8/2	The Balance of Tikkun Olam	Katharine Cahn
8/9	Laughter Sermon	Deanna Hart
8/16	Compassion	Rev. Sarah Schurr
8/23	All Our Relations: Weaving a Tapestry of Shared Values	Donita S. Fry
8/30	A Cradle Lutheran Looks at Social Justice	Angie Hummel

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

From the Minister *(Continued from page 1)*

I have offered you my blessing—both in the years I have been your minister, and now, as I prepare to take my leave in a thoughtful, respectful manner. I will miss you more than you'll know, but I'll stay away for a couple of years, because that will give you the best chance of bonding with your new minister. I won't be far away though, and will watch with interest the steps you take. I'll be cheering quietly from another congregation in the Mt. Hood Cluster. You will always be the first congregation to have chosen me as your minister, and I remain so very grateful to have walked this path with you all for as long as we did.

And now, I bid you goodbye. May your lives be richly blessed.

Warmly, *Rev. Marcia*

Worship Odds & Ends

On Sundays, it is helpful for long-time Wy'easters to sit up front, in the middle, or to the far left in order to be more welcoming to newcomers; it will make room for others who are new, people with children (who need to make quick escapes), or people who want to discreetly enter after the service begins. Thanks!

The Wy'east Worship Committee is always dreaming up new ideas for services, speakers and activities. To share ideas or help bring services to life, contact us at wyeast-worship@googlegroups.com or talk to Paul H., Paul S., Mark A., Amy O., Larry B., or Rev. Marcia.

If your child wants to light the chalice during a service, please contact anyone from the Worship Committee.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is August 20th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book reviews, 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>

RE Wy'Camp

With kids and teachers off for the summer and the weather spectacular here in Portland, Religious Education (RE) is more laid back. Each Sunday, we have an adult or two from the congregation plan a fun activity to do with the kids of all ages (2+) over at the awesome space at Wee Works. We call these activities "Wy'Camp", though they are 30 minutes long and occur during the service! Our childcare provider plays with the littlest ones as usual. This gives our regular teachers a break, which makes sense because we often have fewer kids during the summer, so lesson planning would be difficult. It also gives the opportunity for a wider variety of activities and for adults to be involved in sharing something cool with our great kids! Favorite traditions include making ice cream and playing cooperative games. We're looking for volunteers for this summer, so let Anders know if you're interested!

Books

There is no way I'm going to write a review of *When Women Were Birds (Fifty-four Variations on Voice)* by Terry Tempest Williams, because, for instance, it is based on three shelves of journals left to her by her mother, with all blank pages. Terry takes off from there. I can't.

I will share with you, however, three of my favorite quotes from her journey, the first one being from her mother.

"There are two important days in a woman's life: the day she is born and the day she finds out why."

Diane Dixon Tempest

"So much can come between us, especially in silence."

Terry Tempest Williams

"'Opera has the power to warn you that you have wasted your life,' writes Wayne Koestenbaum. 'You haven't acted on your desires. You've suffered a stunted, vicarious existence. You've silenced your passions. The volume, height, depth, lushness, and excess of operatic utterance reveal, by contrast, how small your gestures have been until now, how impoverished your physicality; you have only used a fraction of your bodily endowment, and your throat is closed.'"

~M.A.

Unitarian Universalism's Seven Principles

“Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The seven Principles and six Sources of the Unitarian Universalist Association grew out of the grassroots of our communities, were affirmed democratically, and are part of who we are.” (from www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/principles)

July 26th's service will focus on the **5th principle**, about which Rev. Parisa Parsa wrote:

“In our religious lives, the democratic process requires trust in the development of each individual conscience—a belief that such development is possible for each of us, as well as a commitment to cultivate our own conscience. We could call it a commitment to the value of each person. In the words of Theodore Parker, ‘Democracy means not “I am as good as you are,” but “You are as good as I am.”’ My connection with the sacred is only as precious as my willingness to acknowledge the same connection in others.”

—Rev. Parisa Parsa, executive director of the Public Conversations Project (read more from Parisa in *The Seven Principles in Word and Worship*, ed. Ellen Brandenburg.)

Special Collections for July and August

July: **OREGON CLIMATE**

From the website: Oregon Climate is a volunteer-driven organization that empowers Oregonians to win real policy change, building the model for a timely global transition to a clean energy economy. Inspired by the Citizens' Climate Lobby and founded in 2013, Oregon Climate is run by a board of young leaders that support focused grassroots organizing statewide. We jointly recognize the urgent need for legislation to curb our current climate trajectory, and unify our diverse strengths behind a plan that can work. Our state can be a model for a root solution to climate change and carbon pollution. We believe the states are the laboratories for democracy, and Congress needs an effective model to craft federal legislation. Oregon can lead the country with the most cost-effective climate policy available: a carbon tax or “fee” on fossil fuels. Returning all revenue from a carbon price to Oregonians in an annual check will power a just, swift and lasting transition to a new economy.

www.oregonclimate.org



August: **KITCHEN COMMONS**

From the website: We are building the kitchen commons: a network of community kitchens in every neighborhood. Community kitchens are places where neighbors of all ages and backgrounds come together to make and share meals, learn from each other about cooking and preserving the harvest, and nurture small food businesses. They can be hosted by faith organizations, schools, community and senior centers, businesses and nonprofits. They can be certified for particular purposes, but many activities don't require certification or special equipment. The role of Kitchen Commons is to support, develop, and promote these kitchen spaces. We do this by connecting neighborhood kitchen organizers with resources, creating opportunities to network and share ideas, and advocating for policies that facilitate the development and use of community kitchens.

www.kitchencommons.net



Environmental Justice at Wy'east



Thank you, Wy'east! We project that \$4,000 will be given to Environmental Justice organizations during the 2014-15 church year and this coming summer. Our special collections have averaged \$317 per month. Between the brief special collection pitches, and the Sunday morning speakers on the same subject, more than a dozen people made presentations to help us understand the environmental dimension of social action. Or is it the human side of environmentalism?

Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky of *Columbia Riverkeeper* told us that appreciating local issues is key to stopping coal trains. Ed Kerns, founder of the *Lents Springwater Corridor Habitat Restoration Project*, invited us to plant trees along Johnson Creek, which we did. Anna Gordon of *Verde* described how the diverse folk of Cully Neighborhood are creating their own park. John Audley of *Sustainable Northwest* shared stories of rural Oregonians who are finding ways to be sustainable. Jenny Holmes, from *Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon*, recalled the landmark 1992 open letter from scientists around the world calling for people of faith to take a stand on climate change. Barbara Ford explained how the *Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth* championed the adoption of our 7th Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

All this did not happen by accident, nor was it an arduous task. Six or seven of us met in June (of 2014). Between us, we named 18 potential organizations and speakers. We picked *Outgrowing Hunger*, with a community gardens mission, to kick off our year and then followed an organic process to fill out the fall calendar. We met again in November to plan our spring roster. Karl Arruda and Jon Biemer were this year's theme champions and Mark Alter, on the Worship Committee, helped speakers frame their message appropriately for Wy'east.

This is the 7th year Wy'east has donated one collection a month to a worthy cause. Themes for previous years have been: Privilege, Racism, Immigrants and Refugees, LGBTQ, Hunger, and Healthcare. Go to www.wyeastuu.org/community-presence to learn about the many organizations Wy'east has supported. It is an impressive list of local and regional groups working to

make the world more just and sustainable. Check out our Sermon Archive of theme speakers while you're at it.

This is a wonderful way for a small congregation to make a significant difference.

~Jon B., Karl A. and Mark A.

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.

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 Wy'east Board generally meets on the second Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm (sometimes 3:30 or 4:30) at a board member's home. If you are interested in attending a meeting, you can call the Wy'east office at (503)777-3704 and leave a message or send an email to wyeast-board@googlegroups.com. Someone will get back to you with the location and exact time. Or, you can ask any board member at a Sunday service.

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in July & August

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in the future, please contact Amy O., Larry B., Paul H., Paul S., or Mark A.

July 5

- **Picnic in the Park** (See page 6 for info).

July 12

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

July 19

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

July 26

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

August 2

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

August 9

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

August 16

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

August 23

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

August 30

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

Sunday Potlucks

Our potlucks will be held on **July 12th** and **August 9th**. Bring a dish to share.



POETRY GROUP FOR JULY/AUGUST

The poetry group will meet on its regularly scheduled **fourth Sunday** in July and

August. Anyone who enjoys either writing or reading poetry is welcome. Just bring six copies of your own work, or six copies of a published poet you'd like to discuss among poetry lovers who seek to explore, discover, and understand truths others bring to the surface of the page. **All are welcome!** Contact Lynn T. if you have questions.

SENIORS GROUP

The Seniors Group at Wy'east is very much a going concern, and meets after the service on the third Sunday of every month 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 5 PICNIC AT CRESTON PARK

In lieu of our regular Sunday service, we will meet at **Creston Park** on SE Powell and 43rd Ave. Bring a food and/or drink to share. There is a barbecue pit and lots of room for kids to run!

Service: There will be no regular service.

Religious Education: There will be no RE.



July 12 STRENGTH, SERVICE, AND VISION

Molli Mitchell, MSW has worked with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, adjudicated youth, and families with seriously ill children, which has informed her vision of caring and just communities. She's also the Justice and Witness chair for her church, Bridgeport UCC, and a member of Standing Up for Racial Justice. All of which has her ask questions such as "How does one live faithfully in response to injustice?", which she will explore with us.

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 19 THE QUESTION BOX

Today, the congregation has the chance to ask Rev. Marcia questions. During the beginning of the service, cards will be distributed for the congregation to write down questions, and Rev. Marcia will answer as many as she has time for. Have a theological question you've always wanted answered? Curious about her favorite book or TV show? Parents are encouraged to talk to their kids about what they would like to know, and we'll have a special children's time where they get to ask questions too! Service by our minister, **Rev. Marcia Stanard**.

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 26 THE 5TH PRINCIPLE AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our 5th principle demonstrates our devotion as Unitarian Universalists to democracy and the right of conscience in our own congregations and the world. How did the 5th principle show up in our work at the UU General Assembly just completed in Portland on June 28th? The speaker will be **Robyn Klopp**, Wy'east's Board Moderator.

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 2 THE BALANCE OF TIKKUN OLAM

“Tikkun Olam” is the Hebrew expression for making the world whole. As people called to this work, sometimes we find ourselves out of alignment, a bit ‘wobbly’ on our own axis. Does healing the world require our own imbalance?

Katharine Cahn, faculty at Portland State’s School of Social Work will share a bit of her own journey with this question.

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 9 LAUGHTER SERMON

Deanna Hart, Certified Laughter Yoga Leader, speaks on laughter’s significance to our spiritual, social, emotional, and physical lives. You will hear about how laughter affects us, why we need it, and how to harness it.

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 16 COMPASSION

How will the practice of compassion help the human race survive in a world filled with competition and risk? **Rev. Sarah Schurr** will call upon wisdom from Charles Darwin to the Dalai Lama as we explore the role of compassion in our lives and in the modern world.

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 23 ALL OUR RELATIONS: WEAVING A TAPESTRY OF SHARED VALUES

“With the strength and resiliency of our community, and grounded in Native American spirituality, our people have survived genocide and remain true to the original instructions passed on by the Creator. These teachings align with UU Principles in that our culture and traditions believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Native philosophy promotes that we are all related.” **Donita S. Fry** coordinates the Portland Youth and Elders Council at the Native American Youth and Family Center.

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 30 A CRADLE LUTHERAN LOOKS AT SOCIAL JUSTICE

Throughout **Angie Hummel**’s life, a lot of Lutheran-influenced education and experiences ignited an interest in and a passion for social justice. She struggles to make sense of her Christian identity as well as her power and privilege but ultimately finds the struggle worthwhile. She’ll share with us about the Leaven community in NE Portland, which has provided a unique space for her to engage with others around issues related to spirituality, justice, equity, and sustainability.

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.