



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 2013

What's Inside?

*Helping a
Homeless Family
...Page 3...*

*Special Collection and
Special Events
...Page 4...*

*Before & After Worship
...Page 5...*

*Two Months of Sundays
...Page 6-7...*

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

*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!*

Musings from Marcia...

Greetings! Welcome to summer in beautiful Portland, Oregon. As I write this, I'm listening to live streaming of the worship services from General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky. General Assembly, or GA, as it's frequently known, is the annual business meeting and conference for the Unitarian Universalist Association. It features several thousand Unitarian Universalists gathering together for worship, approving social justice projects, attending a variety of workshops, and conducting the business of the Association. Because of our polity (a fancy word for our system of governance), delegates from the congregations vote on the President, currently Peter Morales, and the Moderator--Jim Key won this election--and vote on changes to our bylaws, and what social justice projects we should take on as a denomination. I didn't attend this year, though I plan to next year in Providence, RI. In 2015, General Assembly returns to Portland!

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

7/7	Picnic at Creston Park	
7/14	Life's Four Fundamental Dilemmas	Tom Needham
7/21	Our Animal Companions	Rev. Marcia Stanard
7/28	Letting Go	Sarah Shurr
8/4	PFLAG, Portland: Building a Racially Inclusive Organization	Khalil Edwards, Antoinette Edwards & Dawn Holt
8/11	A History of Marriage	Rev. Marcia Stanard
8/18	Stories and Lessons from Haiti	Rich Ireland
8/25	Strengthening the Commons	Barbara Willer

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

From the Minister *(Continued)*

But this year, instead of attending GA, I chose to take some time off. Minister's contracts typically call for four weeks of vacation time, and four weeks of study leave. I have not done a good job of being intentional about taking vacation or study leave. This summer, I realized I need to do a better job of this. Vacation is pretty self explanatory, but study leave is a strange concept to most people. Basically, Unitarian Universalist ministers are encouraged to take time for continuing education, both for conferences or workshops, and for reading and study, so I can bring you interesting, meaningful and thoughtful services over the next year. I also hope to spend time mapping out future services. I am always your minister, and always available for true emergencies, though I will not be responding to general emails while on vacation. I will return refreshed and ready to serve.

The last several years at Wy'east we've had a theme each year for our social justice collections. We've also endeavored to have 5 or 6 guest speakers each year that help us learn more about the theme. Last year, our theme was race, and we heard from a variety of speakers about their experiences as people of color living in Oregon. We raised money for a variety of grassroots organizations doing good work, and learned a lot about other people and their experiences.

This year, in consultation with the Worship Committee and the Board, we have decided to look at *privilege*. It isn't enough to hear about other people's experiences. Part of being a truly welcoming Beloved Community is to examine our own experiences, and see where we have benefited, often without realizing it, from the oppression of others. Over the next year, we will continue to look at race and sexual orientation--both issues we've looked at before--and also incorporate issues of class, ability, and mental health, among others. Our goal is not to make anyone ashamed of those places where we are part of the dominant culture, but to allow us to examine what it means to benefit

from unearned privilege. How can we become truly welcoming to different folks who may be interested in our liberal religion? How can we work with others for justice for everyone? Together, we will grapple with these and other hard questions. I hope you will join us on the journey.

Blessed be, and Amen.

-Rev. Marcia

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 wyeastboard@googlegroups.com or talk to any board member on Sundays at church.



Any Wy'east members and friends who wish to attend are invited to Rev. Marcia's wedding. Please RSVP by Aug 1 to www.mywedding.com/katielovesmarcia

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, contact Betty H. or anyone on the Connections Committee.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the September/October issue submissions is Thursday, August 22nd. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. 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>

Pagan Circle

As some of you know, Holly O. has been a volunteer leader of a Pagan Circle at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility since 2012. Every Sunday evening Holly works with the women in medium security who are Pagan, or are interested in Paganism. She has recently been granted escorting privileges and is looking for Pagans and Earth Centered Spiritualists who would be interested in sharing their knowledge with these women. Volunteers can be any gender, but must be of age and able to pass a background check. If you are interested in sharing a little of your time, and gaining a wonderful sense of service, contact Holly at hollycarolppm@gmail.com

Helping a Homeless Family

A group of Wy'east members have formed a team which is working with the Village Support Network program. There are teams from a number of local faith communities which each will work with one homeless family for 6 months as the family transitions to housing. We will work with the family, supporting them as they make and work on an action plan and will help them find and connect with the resources of their new neighborhood. Our team is: Carol B., Diane I., Amy N., Mary P., Mabel P., Barbara R. and Tricie R. (from a Tigard Presbyterian church). We have each attended a half day training and have visited the Goose Hollow Shelter to meet the families who are awaiting housing. We will soon be matched up with one of these families. We will report to Wy'east periodically and will ask for support as we need it. Thank you everyone!

Calling all Animal Lovers!

For an upcoming service, requested by Betsy and Raul M., Rev. Marcia is collecting stories about pets, or other companion animals. Have a special story about a pet? A way an animal has touched your life? Email them to Rev. Marcia at minister@wyeastuu.org or feel free to let her know you'd like to tell her the story via phone or in person. Also, don't forget to bring in pictures of your pets to the service on July 21st.



Special Collections for July and August

On **July 28th**, our Special Collection will be for the **Compassionate Earth Walk**. This is a pilgrimage along the (tar sands oil) Keystone XL Pipeline route, to witness and call attention to the conflict between corporate and individual wants and actual limits. The walk will be from Hardesty, Alberta to Steele City, Nebraska, 1300 miles. Jon Biemer, a long-time Wy'east member, is taking part in the Walk, and will be speaking to us about it this day.

From the website: *The Compassionate Earth Walk is a spiritual pilgrimage. We seek resolution through listening, witnessing, and offering service.* www.CompassionateEarthWalk.org July to October, 2013.

And on **August 18th**, our Special Collection is going to **Education for Haiti**, a project created by Rich Ireland, an old friend of both Larry B. and Mark A. in this congregation. Rich was in the Peace Corps in Haiti more than a dozen years ago, and here's what he has written about that experience, plus his work that came out of it.

"We see in the media many examples of the immense problems facing Haiti. One of the problems is access to education. Only 50% of the children go past sixth grade. Education for Haiti (E.F.H.) is addressing this need by working with families where I was in the town of Aquin, providing tuition through high school and beyond.

This is a program which has been operating since 2001 when I returned from the Peace Corps. Over that time I and a handful of friends have donated money to six families to assist their children's access to school. These families represent thirty-three children. In November of 2012 we discovered that the investment had wonderful success. Five have graduated from high school and three of those are pursuing professions in nursing, law and engineering. The other two would like to start nursing school. Seventeen are still attending school. Most of them want to go into a profession. There are two others who have established viable businesses.

E.F.H. is working to continue this legacy. Using this model, we plan on expanding it to other families. Once we commit to a family or child, our commitment is to stay with that support until they've finished their education. To put this in perspective -- less than 20% of Haitian children go to high school, and only about 9% graduate.

Economic development is essential for Haiti to address its needs. Teaching is one profession where educated Haitians can find work. Through supporting students we not only support their potential, but in a very real way contribute to the economy of Aquin."

After-Service Events in July and August

COMPASSIONATE EARTH WALK AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL HANDPRINT

After our morning service on **July 28th**, **Jon Biemer** will share his experience of seeing the Alberta Tar Sands, the beginning of the Compassionate Earth Walk, and why he is briefly returning to Portland to deliver a professional paper to his fellow engineers entitled, "Our Environmental Handprint – The Good We Do." From 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. All are welcome.



EDUCATION FOR HAITI

After our service on **August 18th**, **Rich Ireland** will be giving a PowerPoint presentation on this project, showing the municipality of Aquin, plus many of the students and families



the project is supporting. From 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm, and again, all are welcome.

Poetry

THE WY'EAST POETRY CIRCLE

welcomes anyone who is interested in poetry, whether or not they are a member of the congregation,

to meet with us at **noon** on the **4th Sunday of every month**. This is not a class nor is it a writing group. Anyone who comes is welcome to share in reading poems aloud – either poems which they wrote themselves or those of favorite authors. If you prefer, you can just sit and listen! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, you are welcome here.

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., Brooke C., or Mark A.

July 7

• **We will be meeting at Creston Park instead of our regular service and after worship activities.**

July 14

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

July 21

• **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

July 28

• **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

• **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am

• **Wy'east Poetry Circle** • 12:00 noon (*see box on page 4*)

• Presentation: **Compassionate Earth Walk and the Environmental Handprint** • 12:00 noon (*see page 4*)



August 4

• **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

August 11

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

August 18

• **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

• Presentation: **Education for Haiti** • 12:00 noon (*see page 4*)

August 25

• **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

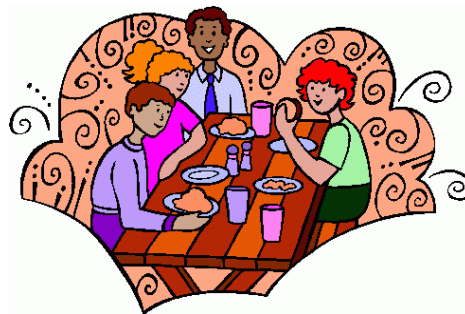
• **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am

• **Wy'east Poetry Circle** • 12:00 noon (*see box on page 4*)

UU Adventures in Eating

Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks will be held on **July 14th** and **August 11th**. Bring a dish to share.



Restaurant Adventure

After our service on the **fourth Sunday** of each month, those who are interested gather for lunch at a local restaurant. It is an opportunity for lively and topical conversation, and for enjoying the bounty of wonderful restaurant food available in Portland.

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 Mark A., Brooke C., Amy O., Larry B., or Marcia S.

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



July 7 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 horseshoe pit and lots of room for kids to run!

Service: There will be no regular service.

Religious Education: There will be no RE.

July 14 LIFE'S FOUR FUNDAMENTAL DILEMMAS

Every one of us, because we are human, faces the same four ultimate questions: death, solitude, freedom and meaning. Living a thoughtful life requires that we find answers to these dilemmas. However, while our questions are the same, our answers, and the paths we use to find them and illuminate our lives, can be very different. Presentation by **Tom Needham**, from the West Hills UU Fellowship.

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 21 OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS

For so many of us, our pets are among our most important relationships. This service celebrates the special bond many of us have with our animal companions, and features stories collected from the congregation. Please bring a picture of your pet to share with us. They will be returned. 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 28 LETTING GO

Longtime Wy'east member, **Rev. Sarah Schurr**, will speak about an ongoing challenge many of us face: what can we really control in life, and when do we need to just let go?

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.

Restaurant Adventure: 11:40 a.m. Location to be announced during social hour.

August 4 PFLAG, PORTLAND: BUILDING A RACIALLY INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Portland took a look in 2007 and didn't like what it saw: nearly all of its members were white. Through dialogue, leadership empowerment and the occasional misstep, there are now two chapters: PFLAG Portland and the PFLAG Portland Black Chapter, the country's only chapter in and for the African American community. **Khalil Edwards** and **Antoinette Edwards** of the Black Chapter and **Dawn Holt** of PFLAG Portland will speak about building a racially inclusive organization and ensuring a focus of racial justice.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

August 11 A HISTORY OF MARRIAGE

As she gets ready to celebrate her own nuptials, Rev. Marcia shares a history of what marriage has meant over time, and looks at how our ideas continue to change. How will the legalization of same-gender marriage change the institution? And who wants to be institutionalized, anyway? 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.

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

August 18 STORIES AND LESSONS FROM HAITI

Rich Ireland was deeply touched by his experiences in Haiti as a Peace Corps Volunteer and has kept close ties there ever since. He will tell stories of those experiences that have inspired and humbled him. After visiting the country again in December, 2011, Rich left with more hope for Haiti, and will share some of his perspective from that visit, as well as more updated information.

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 25 STRENGTHENING THE COMMONS

The Interfaith Coordinator for Multnomah County, **Barbara Willer**, will share why the county created a position to strengthen the partnership and collaboration between government and faith communities. She is the first person in the country to hold such a position, has decades of experience in both the non-profit and public sectors, and is currently working on her Masters of Divinity degree at Marylhurst.

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.

Restaurant Adventure: 11:40 a.m. Location to be announced during social hour.