



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

March/April 2013

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*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...

This afternoon, I watched flickers, robins and starlings flittering around in my backyard. Our friends in the northeast part of this country still digging their way out from under the snow of Nemo may beg to differ, but here in Portland, spring seems just around the corner. As a life-long Oregonian, I know we're still in for weeks of gray, but I also know that the daffodils are sprouting and the tulips aren't far behind.

Spring seems like a good time to look ahead and think about new beginnings. After the frenzy of the holidays and the short days and cold of winter, we're getting ready for the longer days and new shoots of spring. Those bulbs that have been hibernating in the ground for months are ready to burst forth into new color and new life.

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Sunday Sermons

3/3	Spirits Behind Bars	Rev. Dr. Emily Brault
3/10	Generosity, or What's in it for Me?	Rev. Marcia Stanard
3/17	Music, The Spirit of Life	Linda B., Raul, Mary P., & Debra
3/24	Toward Community: Racial Justice and Inclusion	Cat Goughnour
3/31	Easter Sunday. The Risen Christ?	Rev. Marcia Stanard
4/7	Change & Constancy	Reed College Unitarian Universalist Group
4/14	What I learned at Summer Camp	Rev. Marcia Stanard
4/21	Potpourri of Poetry	Wy'east UU Poetry Circle
4/28	The Benefits of Boredom	Rev. Marcia Stanard

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

From the Minister *(Continued)*

Spring is a time to look forward to what comes next. At Wy'east, it's also the time we make plans for next year. The board proposes a budget, which the congregation votes on. We do our annual canvass and members and friends make their financial pledges to Wy'east. Like last year, this proposed budget will be close to \$65,000. We have some new members, and with more focused conversations about stewardship and better outreach to those who don't attend regularly, but still support Wy'east financially, we expect to have a balanced budget this year. This will require everyone to contribute to whatever extent they are able.

There are three major ways we hope everyone contributes to our religious community. First, we are grateful for your presence among us. We hope you are able to attend services regularly. This is the time we have together each week. Because we don't have a building that we have access to all the time, Sunday morning is our major time to be together. Our small groups also provide important fellowship for members and friends. And I understand that some of us aren't able to attend services, but stay connected by other means.

The other ways Wy'east asks for your support are in matters of time, and money. We need the pledges of our members to pay our bills. Many of us might not know that the cash offering we take on Sunday mornings provides less than 5% of our budget. 92% of our income comes from pledges from members and friends. We realize that some of our members live very close to the bone. We don't want anyone to pledge more than they can afford. But some of us are doing better financially at this point. We encourage you to consider carefully what you can pledge, knowing that everything we do is funded in this way.

The final way we support our faith community is through our volunteering. In a very small church such as ours, almost everything is done by volunteers. We set up a space from scratch, arrange speakers half of each month, greet visitors, play music, provide snacks and pay the rent. All of these jobs and many others are done by volunteers. Some of the folks who've been doing these jobs for years are burning out. Others are happy to continue doing what they love. Everyone needs to be thanked and feel appreciated. I encourage you to say thank you to someone you see contributing their labor and time, but I also encourage you to think about what jobs you might be willing to take on next year. For some folks, getting to church is all they're able to do at this point in their lives, and that's okay. But for most of us, volunteering is an important part of how we give back to this community

that strengthens us. After the canvass, we will have a more in-depth discussion of the jobs that it takes to keep the congregation functioning at a high level. But for now, as the daffodils bloom, consider what new ideas you might be ready to say yes to. What's calling you?

Warmly,
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.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the May/June issue submissions is Thursday, April 18th. 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>

Special Collections for March and April



In **March** we will be donating to the **NAACP** branch in Portland, and in **April** we'll be donating to the **Cambodian-American Community of Oregon**, local as well. Both groups are about service, the first through social justice and the second through cultural preservation. In each case, a representative of the organization who has already been a guest of ours at Wy'east will be speaking briefly to us about the good work that's being done by her group.

**Cambodian-American
Community of OREGON**

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Once a quarter Wy'east volunteers at the Clay Street Table, helping to feed the downtown homeless with the **Saturday morning breakfast program** at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. We partner with First Unitarian in doing this, and our shifts in 2013 are on March 23rd, June 22nd, August 24th, and November 23rd. If you're interested, see Mark A.

Also, there is the Hollywood Senior Center every **third Saturday of the month breakfast program**. This is low key, family friendly, and Wy'east members and children would be welcome to volunteer at it. The hours are from 8:30 to 10:30 am. You could just show up, or here's the email address for the organizer: susan.rossiter@state.or.us

Thanks to the Wy'easters who are helping drive Betsy and Raul while they recover from viruses, etc. Our folks are always ready to help!



www.wyeastuu.org

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).

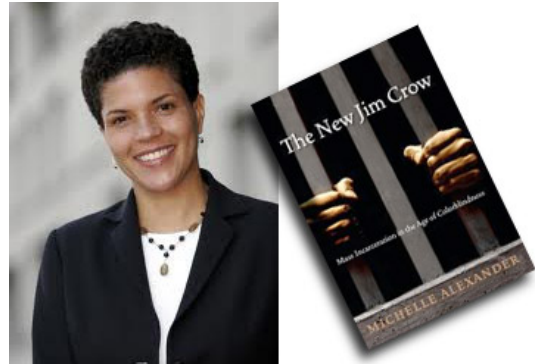
To subscribe to these groups, go to www.wyeastuu.org/contact or groups.google.com/group/wyeast and groups.google.com/group/wyeast-chat

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.

The Start of Something New

After the service on the first Sunday of every month, we're going to have some kind of media presentation. On **March 3rd**, it will be watching a video of author Michelle Alexander speaking about **The New Jim Crow**.



And on **April 7th**, it will be a live, interactive event with PSU Black Studies professor, Walidah Imarisha, going into the question of **Why Aren't There More Black People in Oregon**, sponsored by Oregon Humanities.



Each of these presentations will begin at noon, as will future ones in this first-Sunday-of-the-month, after-morning-service series.

Beach "Party"

Come join fellow UU's from the Portland Area for a beach clean-up on Saturday, March 30. This is a fun event for all ages and will provide an opportunity to meet members of area Unitarian Universalist Congregations.

We will meet at the Camp Meriwether/Clark Boy Scout Camp just south of Cape Lookout State Park at 10:30 a.m. We will make carpooling arrangements in advance. Gloves, bags, and safety equipment will be provided.

After cleaning up the beach, we'll backtrack about 5 miles to the Day Use Shelter at Cape Lookout State Park. We'll share snacks and desserts and visit with other Metro area UUs before heading back home. The park has picnic shelters.

Please see Hank or Betty H. if you are interested.



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 weast-worship@googlegroups.com or talk to Mark A., Brooke C., Amy O., or Marcia S.

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

Food Ethics Conference

Food and agriculture are increasingly important topics to Oregonians as interest in the quality and sourcing of our daily bread grows. *Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership* is presenting a two-part Food Ethics Conference on March 15 in Portland and March 16th in Salem, with Dr. Norman Wirzba. Wirzba, author of *Food and Faith* and other works, is known for engaging agrarian traditions for revitalizing philosophical and theological reflection.

On **March 15th**, Dr. Norm Wirzba will speak on **Making Peace with the Land: Shaping Food Ethics** in a 7-9 p.m. lecture and discussion hosted and co-sponsored by Warner Pacific College at the Schlatter Prayer Chapel, Warner Pacific College, 2219 SE 68th, Portland, Oregon.

On **March 16th** the conference will move to Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, running from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the University Alumni Center (am) and Cone Chapel in Waller Hall (pm).

Register online for both events at www.emoregon.org. Space is limited so register early! There is a \$10 recommended donation for the March 15 lecture and the cost for the conference on March 16 is \$32 (includes lunch), \$20 without lunch or \$10 for afternoon only. Scholarships are available.

For questions call 503-221-1054 ext. 214. *Co-sponsored by Willamette University, Presbyterian Hunger Program, World Hunger of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Oregon Humanities and Warner Pacific College (March 15 lecture).*

Ostara/Spring Equinox

In the continuing conversation about starting a CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) program at Wy'east I have the following suggestion:

I would like to propose that we meet informally for at least six months so that we can determine if we have the energy and resources to sustain such a group. One of the requirements in forming a CUUPS chapter is to create bylaws.

This is not something that I have experience with, but I don't think that it should be rushed. We could visit this before Sabbat (Pagan holidays) rituals.

To kick things off I would love to have an Ostara ritual! Ostara marks the beginning of spring, and it has many similarities to Easter. I would love to have an outdoor ritual so that we can really feel the Earth's energy. I recently went to Eagle Fern Park with Amy and the kids, and had a lovely time. It is outside of Portland, near Estacada, and has no cell phone reception. The distance might be a barrier for some, but it really is worth the drive. Perhaps we can work out a carpool if some people need assistance in getting there. It has a covered area, is by the creek, and has a nice fire pit. There is a good hiking trail nearby that is partially wheel chair accessible.

Is anyone interested in meeting up there on March 23rd around two? The park closes at six during this time of year. We could have an egg hunt, a craft, a potluck, and a ritual. Very family friendly and fun!

Want to help? Let me know if you would like to contribute:

- Easter eggs with small prizes (no chocolate for the safety of dogs)
- Bubble soap
- A craft project
- Cakes and Ale (usually juice and a cookie or other goodie)
- Spring items for the altar table
- Cups, plates, and utensils for the event.

All are welcome and no Pagan experience is necessary!



— Holly O.

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in March & April

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in the future, please contact Amy O., Brooke C., or Mark A.

March 3

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Presentation:** The New Jim Crow • 12:00 noon

March 10

- **No Potluck Brunch** • There will be no potluck after the service. Instead, we will have our **Canvass Kickoff Dinner and Dessert** in the evening. (See next column)

March 17

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

March 24

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am

March 31

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am



April 7

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Presentation:** Why Aren't There More Black People in Oregon? • 12:00 noon

April 14

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.
- **Budget Forum** • After the potluck

April 21

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

April 28

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am

UU Adventures in Eating

Sunday Potluck

Our potluck will be held on **April 14th** at 11:30 am. 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.

Canvass Kickoff

The Wy'east Canvass Kickoff Dinner and Dessert Event is on **March 10th, 2013!**

Seven gracious hosts are offering their homes for good food and conversation starting at 5:00 pm, then we will all gather at the Hollywood Senior Center at 6:30 pm for dessert.

This will be a time for us to meet in smaller groups, get to know one another a little better and discuss our thoughts and ideas about Wy'east. Then we will commune together at HSC to help plan our next year. There will be information about budgets and pledges!

If you can't make it to a dinner, please come to the dessert event at the Hollywood Senior Center starting at 6:30 pm.

March 3 SPIRITS BEHIND BARS

Rev. Dr. Emily Brault reflects on what UU's have to offer to people in difficult situations. What is our faithful response? Emily works as a chaplain for the Oregon Department of Corrections, and is a UU minister affiliated with Atkinson Memorial Church in Oregon City. In her spare time she plays the banjo and hangs out with her family, although her family does not appreciate the elegance of the banjo.

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.

March 10 GENEROSITY, OR WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

From Biblical stories to Buddhist teachings, being generous with what you have is a core spiritual virtue. But what do we ourselves get out of being generous, if not just a free pass into the next world? 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 RE.

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service. *No Potluck.*

March 17 MUSIC, THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

An ancient Chinese proverb says, "A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song." Music is a language that all can understand and respond to without learning it. We will explore what meaning it has for us. Service by **Linda B., Raul, Mary P., and Debra**.

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.

March 24 TOWARD COMMUNITY: RACIAL JUSTICE AND INCLUSION

Cat Goughnour is a dedicated community advocate, activist and mentor, committed to including the perspective of "mixed-race" people in conversations about race, human rights and equity. From being a minority in Oregon, and enriched by her academic understanding of racial justice and inclusion, she'll invite us to look at racism and unconscious bias during these "post-racial" times, and making a difference in Portland with all of the above.

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.

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

March 31 EASTER SUNDAY. THE RISEN CHRIST?

Easter, the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, is the most important holiday in the Christian calendar. 2000 years later, what is it about this story that's still so compelling? We'll examine the themes of forgiveness and sacrifice as well as the idea of actual resurrection. 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 RE.

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

April

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

April 7 CHANGE & CONSTANCY

At no point in life can we avoid the changes that rush around us, pushing us forward, prompting us to prepare for the unexpected and adapt to the unknown. As we are swept up in the flow, we remember the constants that are still and quiet rocks around which the moving streams of our lives swirl. Please join the **Reed College Unitarian Universalist Group** for our annual service, as we explore the change that excites and frightens us, change that bombards us and change we go searching for, and how we find solace in the rituals and traditions that keep us grounded.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Families will be together for this intergenerational service, so there will be no RE. Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

April 14 WHAT I LEARNED AT SUMMER CAMP

In February, Rev. Marcia went to the Unitarian Universalist Association's First Year Minister's Conference. In April, she attends the PNWD Minister's Retreat. What do they do at these conferences, and what wisdom has she returned with? 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 RE. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

Budget Forum: After the potluck.

April 21 A POTPOURRI OF POETRY

To celebrate Oregon's Poetry Month, members of the **Wy'east Poetry Circle** share a variety of poems, their own and those of others, to hopefully brighten your day, enlighten and encourage your spirit, touch your heart, put joy in your step, and possibly fill you with awe.

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.

April 28 THE BENEFITS OF BOREDOM

Anna Quindlen writes, "I really feel that the long stretches of boredom that were the hallmarks of my childhood was where I became a writer....If we make no space for children to stare into the middle distance we lose a generation of musicians, artists and poets." What's the connection between boredom and creativity? 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 RE.

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.