



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 2014

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Marcia's Musings...

After a relatively mild winter, capped off by snow and ice, we're heading into spring—a traditional time for new growth. At Wy'east, we're looking to plant the seeds of stewardship and to revitalize and deepen our connections to each other and our community.

Our new Committee on Ministry (COM) is up and active. Tode O., Mary P., Summer B., Michael A., and Diane H. meet with me monthly to discuss the ministry of Wy'east. They serve as a sounding board for me, and are available for anyone to speak with about any suggestions, criticisms or compliments you have about my ministry. One important thing to know is that they can't take anonymous comments. Your name and comments will not be shared outside the committee, but they will use your name within the group, and with me.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

3/2	Home on the Range	Rev. Judy Zimmerman
3/9	Lost and Found	Rev. Marcia Stanard
3/16	Carrying Our Shared Vision into the Wider World	Wy'east members
3/23	Radical Love	Rev. Marcia Stanard
3/30	Sermons in Stones	Rev. Sarah Schurr
4/6	Unexpected Journeys	Reed College UU group
4/13	Facing the Hard Stuff	Rev. Marcia Stanard
4/20	Overcoming Our Environmental Challenges	Jon Biemer and Karl Arruda
4/27	Stories of Stewardship	Rev. Marcia Stanard

(For Sermon Details, See "2 Months Of Sundays", On Pages 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!*

From the Minister *(Continued)*

At Wy'east, we're very good about speaking to new folks, but it gets trickier for people who've been coming long enough that they aren't all new and shiny, yet may not be really integrated into the congregation. We're hoping to form an Engagement task force—a group of people whose calling it is to organize occasional social events, as well as to help connect new members with volunteer positions and new friends in the congregation. Is this something that might appeal to you? Do you know someone who'd be a great match for this job? Let me, or any of the folks in the Committee on Ministry know!

If you've been attending Wy'east for a while and are interested in exploring the possibility of membership, I invite you to a Path to Membership class on March 9th after the service and potluck. Please see me if you are curious!

May your spring be rich with the vitality of new growth, and the strong connections of deep roots.

-Rev. Marcia

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the May/June issue submissions is Thursday, April 17th. 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>

*We come to welcome and to be
welcomed,*

*To build bridges over the chasms that
divide us*

*Into a thousand separate selves, each
alone, often lonely.*

Richard S. Gilbert, *On The Cusp of Life* (1997)
(Unitarian Universalist, minister, social activist)

Getting Connected @ Wy'east

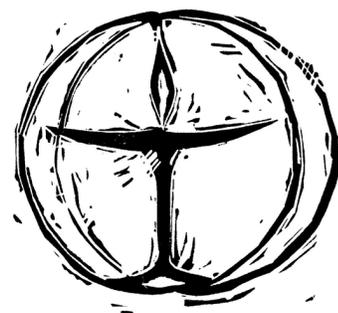
Join the Wy'east Google Groups

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 Hank H. or anyone on the Connections Committee.



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 Stanard.

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

Special Collections for March and April

March: **The Oregon Justice Resource Center**

The Oregon Justice Resource Center assists with trial and appellate litigation on behalf of indigent, prisoner, and low-income clients in federal and state courts on a range of civil liberties and civil rights matters, including but not limited to the death penalty, immigrant rights, and unfair procedural barriers to the courts. The mission of the Oregon Justice Resource Center is to dismantle systemic discrimination in the administration of justice by promoting civil rights and enhancing the quality of legal representation for traditionally underserved communities. In the spirit of this mission and in collaboration with other like-minded organizations, the OJRC seeks to provide legal services to underrepresented populations; to impart practical skills to future public interest lawyers; and to educate the local community on individual civil rights and current civil liberties issues. *ojrc.info*



April: **OPAL – Organizing People Activating Leaders**

From a blog post on the OPAL website called The Long Reach of Privilege: The online environmental journal Grist provides a great article detailing the impact transportation has on communities of color and how such inconsistencies divide the country along racial, ethnic, and economic lines. “When only certain segments of the population can easily access economic resources for advancement, that’s not opportunity. That’s called privilege.” When the voices that are heard belong to those who have the least at stake, that is privilege. When equity is forfeited in the name of politics, that is an extension of privilege. TriMet’s actions last week demonstrate a privilege that comes from a place of stability, from the knowledge that their lives are not measured in time tables and transfer slips. TriMet needs to adopt the practice of active listening in order to transform policies of privilege into campaigns of equity. *www.opalpdx.org*



RE Update

2014 is off to a wonderful start!

Our terrific Religious Education teachers Anders and Katy adopted two one-year old boys in January (yay Anders and Katy!). They’re dedicating themselves to their sweet new kiddos, and understandably had to step down from teaching for the rest of the year. We’re so excited to welcome their boys into the congregation, and are incredibly grateful for the Wy’easters who have stepped up to help out in RE. We’re happy to have Larry B., Holly O., and Laura N. helping with teaching our kids.

In February, RE hosted what has become our annual day of show and tell. Thanks to everyone who came over to Wee Works Preschool to learn about what the kids have been up to this year. We had a great time making Valentines for Marilyn D. as well as for women in an Oregon prison that Holly O. works with, writing letters to Governor Kitzhaber about proposed coal exports in Oregon, and the middle schoolers coaching adults through an interactive game about stereotypes.

Several of our middle schoolers have started in the Our Whole Lives program that Lana and Alex are teaching at Eastrose Fellowship. We’re thrilled to be providing this important sexuality education to our youth, and we appreciate all of the support from parents and everyone else at Wy’east.

In faith,
Ashley



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.

How to Create an Environmental Handprint

By Jon R. Biemer, P.E.

(This piece was compiled as background for the April 20th Earth Day Wy'east service and the Santa Cruz, CA, Round Table sponsored by www.ReSkilling Expo on February 16th. Jon is a member of the Wy'east Congregation.)

While we do what we can to reduce our impact on the environment, let us also help the environment. I have been learning about the environmental handprint, the good we do. Here are some ways we can use our proactive and creative powers to effect good. Take heart, we are building on success.

1. **Plant Trees.** One-fifth of our carbon emissions are absorbed by trees. With the owner's permission, I planted a live sequoia Christmas tree in a backyard ceremony at a rental house in 1988. The owner has since died; the tree is now 30 feet tall. Kenya's Green Belt movement plants millions of trees every year (www.greenbeltmovement.org).
2. **Recover habitat.** River and stream recovery is long-term work that requires lots of volunteers. London, Cleveland and Los Angeles have shown us how to do it. Portland's Johnson Creek Watershed Council (www.jcwc.org) hosts an Annual Watershed Wide Event. The salmon are returning!
3. **Eat locally grown foods.** Farmers Markets. Community Supported Agriculture. Portland's People's Food Cooperative (www.peoples.coop). Pick your flavor to save transportation, support the local economy and transform our food system. Keep in mind, our lawns are ecological deserts. Willow, my wife, and I have transformed several lawns into food forests. Remember, there just may be a community garden near you. If not...
4. **Give to an environmental cause.** John D. Rockefeller donated ranch land that became Grand Teton National Park. Our monthly donation to Greenpeace, Nature Conservancy or Willamette Riverkeepers (www.willamette-riverkeeper.org) is a form of philanthropy. We should all consider what kind of environmental bequests we leave in our wills.
5. **Vote for environmental stewards.** Bureaucrats write regulations and enforce policies that keep our rivers and our air clean and our utilities environmentally attuned. A personal thank you makes a lot of difference. Voting for politicians that allow these folks to do their work is a must.
6. **Testify.** Politicians respond when they know the people care. Our letters stopped oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. My testimony helped save a six foot wide strip of park next to Portland's Midland Library from becoming asphalt parking lot.
7. **Show up.** Changing how people think changes the

world. Witnessing. Street theater. Direct action. Wy'east supported the Compassionate Earth Walk (www.compassionateearthwalk.org). There is ongoing need for people willing to say "no" to exporting fossil fuels (www.350.org).

8. **Support environmental education.** Help our heirs fall in love with nature. The Portland (OR) Parks Environmental Education program offers field trips and restoration opportunities for young people (www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/38295). Headwaters School in Northern California teaches tracking and edible plants (www.hwos.com). Monterey Bay Aquarium teaches teachers how to bring nature into the classroom (www.montereybayaquarium.org).
9. **Leverage a job and a career.** Starting a recycling program at work is a cliché, but someone has to do it. Many businesses (not just green ones) now prepare annual sustainability reports. Every career presents opportunities at some point to make a positive environmental difference. Package without plastic. Partner with local public transit and environmental organizations. Take steps toward becoming a carbon-neutral company.
10. **Encourage others to be more sustainable.** We are most influenced by our peers. Take a friend shopping on the bus or help him or her set up a compost bin. Write an article such as this in your organization's newsletter. Talk environment to your alumni group or professional association.
11. **Nurture and create community.** Annually Portland hosts the Village Building Convergence with an emphasis on "place making" (www.cityrepair.org). Check out what traditional elders have to teach us about living close to the earth at www.earthandspirit.org.
12. **Invest sustainably.** Socially responsible investing is voting with your returns. How sustainable can I make my IRA or 401(k)? For a guide to divesting from fossil fuels and reinvesting in socially positive businesses see www.trilliuminvest.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ExtractingFossilFuels2-pager.pdf.
13. **Offset your carbon footprint.** After making a yeoman effort to reduce your environmental impact, check out the possibilities to offset your remaining carbon footprint at www.CarbonFund.org, www.NativeEnergy.com, or www.nature.org. Willow and I happily helped save a rainforest in Belize and supported a wood fuel-saving clean water project in Ghana.
14. **Support innovation.** Lessons learned from imperfections are the foundation of today's game-changing wind industry. It may take decades to debug wave energy. "Early adopters," people willing to try new products, keep the creative juices of entrepreneurs flowing. Check out Solar Cookers International (www.solarcookers.org) for the latest in solar cooking – including an 1800 page wiki.

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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., Larry B., Brooke C., or Mark A.

March 2

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **The New Jim Crow** (second two chapters)
Book Reading Group • 12:00 noon

March 9

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.
- A **Path to Membership** class will be held after the potluck.

March 16

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

March 23

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

March 30

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am



April 6

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **The New Jim Crow** (final two chapters)
Book Reading Group • 12:00 noon

April 13

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

April 20

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

April 27

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

Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks will be held on **March 9th** and **April 13th**. Bring a dish to share.



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.



YOUNG ADULT GROUP The Young Adult group meets on the third Sunday of each month. We've been gathering at Panera Bread; they have a 'pay what you can' deal, so finances shouldn't be an issue to prevent people from joining. Like the senior group, we are very flexible on the age range considered "young adult." **Hope to see some of you there!**

March 2 HOME ON THE RANGE

The folk song “Home on the Range” speaks of an independent spirit unfettered by limits. What elements of this frontier spirit live on in Unitarian Universalism today? How might this spirit cloud the open sky that heralds the promise of our living faith? **Rev. Judy Zimmerman** is the coordinator for Oregon UU Voices for Justice. Recently ordained, she is active in the Hillsboro congregation and has spent many years teaching psychology and women’s studies at PCC.

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 9 LOST AND FOUND

Come hear reflections about a missing wedding ring, coral reefs, and the Pacific Ocean. 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.

A **Path to Membership** class will be held after the service and potluck.

March 16 CARRYING OUR SHARED VISION INTO THE WIDER WORLD

Service by several Wy’east members. How are Wy’east members and children working to fight injustice, care for the vulnerable, and protect our environment? By working together, joining with other UU groups, partnering with diverse community groups, and contributing financially. Together we amplify our efforts to accomplish more than we can separately.

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 23 RADICAL LOVE

We covenant together as a community of Love, we say each week in our covenant. All you need is Love, said the Beatles. But what does this kind of love actually mean? 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.

March 30 SERMONS IN STONES

In his play ‘As You Like It’ Shakespeare shared his view that we can draw great wisdom from unexpected experiences. Longtime Wy’east member, **Rev. Sarah Schurr**, will look at how Unitarian Universalists draw wisdom from many interesting sources as well.

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 6 **UNEXPECTED JOURNEYS**

Service by the **Reed College UU group**. Not every journey is planned. Sometimes we don't realize that we have begun a journey until we are already so far-gone from the familiar that we cannot go back. Like many adventurers, our path forward is wrought with obstacles, both terrible and triumphant, that we must overcome to reach safety. Some journeys take days, others years, and still others, lifetimes - and every so often, we don't make it. Regardless of whether or not our journeys are planned, we cannot anticipate how they will change us in the end, only that they most certainly will.

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 13 **FACING THE HARD STUFF**

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate the day that Jesus came into Jerusalem. According to the bible, he knew his death was imminent. How do we face the hard stuff in our own lives? 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.

April 20 **OVERCOMING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

Pete Seeger once said, "The key to the future of our world is finding the optimistic stories, and letting them be known." Part of Pete Seegar's legacy is helping to pass the Clean Water Act and cleaning up the Hudson River – with the help of his ship, Clearwater, innumerable concerts and thousands of volunteers. This Earth Day service will highlight other stories of hope and progress in the environmental movement. We celebrate our part in this good news as we look forward to having even greater impact. Service by Wy'east members **Jon Biemer** and **Karl Arruda**.

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 27 **STORIES OF STEWARDSHIP**

How do we take care of our congregation? How does our congregation take care of us? Hear stories of symbiosis in this sermon on the day we kick off our annual canvass. 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.