



# 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 2015

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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!*

## From the Minister

### ***Unitarian Universalist General Assembly is coming to Portland!***

General Assembly, or GA, is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Part business meeting, part social gathering, part educational experience, GA is a time when four to six thousand UU's from across the continent come together. This year's GA will be held at the Oregon Convention Center June 24th-28th.

Each GA features large worship services, business meetings to discuss social justice concerns that the Association will take on, and workshops led by ministers, lay folk and UUA staff. Special events include the Ware Lecture, with this year's presenter Cornel West; the Service of the Living Tradition that celebrates new and retiring religious professionals in our movement; and a special Sunday Morning Worship Service. The event also includes a chance to work with a local organization—this year it's the Reentry Transition Center, run by Mercy Corps, that helps previously incarcerated people integrate back into the community.

The Service of the Living Tradition and the Sunday Morning Worship Service are open to the public, but admission to all other events requires registration. Early registration is suggested—not only because it offers a significant cost saving, but because Portland is one of the most popular locations for GA. Last held here in 2007, we had the largest attendance ever. Early registration for the entire event is \$350, with one-day options also available. *(Continued on page 2)*

## Sunday Sermons

3/1	<b>Education and Belief</b>	Larry Burt
3/8	<b>Power of Connection</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
3/15	<b>A Long Haul Perspective: Connecting Earth and Faith</b>	Jenny Holmes
3/22	<b>Looking In, Looking Out</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
3/29	<b>From Theresienstadt to the Twenty-First Century: a Celebration of Resilience</b>	Rev. Patti Pomerantz
4/5	<b>To Love God is to Love like God</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
4/12	<b>Nothing For Us Without Us</b>	Vivian Satterfield
4/19	<b>Everything is Holy Now</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
4/26	<b>Why Wy'east?</b>	Rev. Sarah Schurr

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

## From the Minister *(Continued)*

A great option to consider is volunteering. Volunteers who work 24 hours over the 5 days of GA get free registration. Jobs include ushering, registration, recycling patrol, ambiance, and local greeters and information people. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lana A. from Wy'east, or the Volunteer Coordinator, Ed A. from First Unitarian. (Ed's email is posted on the bulletin board at Wy'east.)

Another local opportunity to consider is offering home hospitality for visiting UU's. If you have a separate bedroom with a bed and can offer simple breakfasts, Wy'east can earn \$65 per night. Please contact Lana A. or Barbara D. to learn how to apply to be a home host.

I urge you to consider attending—even just for a day. The opportunity to worship with thousands of Unitarian Universalists alone is an amazing experience. To this end, Wy'east will not be having a Sunday service on June 28th, instead encouraging all to attend the free service at GA.

If you can, consider registering and attending some workshops and business meetings as well. The opportunity to see what UU's across the continent are doing is inspiring and educational. Hearing from people from congregations of different sizes and geographical locations, learning best practices, and hearing the business of the association all have connected me to a broader base of Unitarian Universalism. I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to consider this opportunity.

Warmly,

—*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](mailto: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](mailto: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 email to [wyeast-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:wyeast-board@googlegroups.com). Someone will get back to you with location and exact time. Or, you can ask any board member at a Sunday service.

## What is the Wy'east Board of Trustees?

The Wy'east board of trustees is the governing body of the Wy'east congregation. It consists of five members elected by the members of the congregation during the annual meeting in May. Two board members are elected in even years and three in odd number years. Newly elected board members begin their two year term on July 1. Members may only serve for two consecutive terms.

Simply stated, the board is responsible for decisions related to and administration of the business affairs of the congregation. This includes proposing an annual budget and making expenditures as specified in the approved budget. The board determines the duties and compensation of all employees. With the exception of the minister, the board appoints and has the power to dismiss all employees.

### Who is eligible to serve on the board of trustees?

Anyone who has been a voting member of Wy'east for six months and is eighteen years of age or older is eligible to be nominated and elected to the board of trustees. The candidates may be nominated by the nominating committee or may run by petition. A list of candidates is prepared by the nominating committee.

### What is expected of board members?

Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings and participate in the tasks of the board. The average time spent by a board member is six hours per month. The board moderator and treasurer will spend more time than this average.

Board members are signatories of Wy'east bank accounts and are expected to be available to sign checks to pay employees and bills.

## Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the May/June issue submissions is Thursday, April 16th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to: [wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com](mailto: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>

## Missioning Process Coming to Wy'east!

Our board has decided it's time for Wy'east to develop a new mission statement. This is not a five-year plan, and doesn't replace our covenant. Rather, it's a process to come up with a clear, concise statement of what role Wy'east hopes to have in the world. Who are we? What is our reason for being? What do we want to do together?

This process will be facilitated by a consultant who will help our members brainstorm ideas, which will then go through a process of consideration and distillation. The process will be collaborative and engaging. We hope folks will consider what Wy'east means to them and consider what we wish to do together.

## Special Congregational Meeting to Consider Bylaws Changes

On Sunday, March 8, 2015, there will be a special congregational meeting to approve changes to the bylaws. It is a legal requirement that Wy'east operate in accordance with our bylaws. Recently we have made some operational changes, and therefore we must revise our bylaws to reflect those changes. The meeting will be held at 12:30pm, at the end of our potluck brunch. Please plan to stick around for a few minutes to attend the meeting. It will be brief, and we need a quorum. All are welcome to attend, but only members may vote. You can find a copy of the proposed bylaws changes on our web site, [www.wyeastuu.org/proposed-bylaws-changes](http://www.wyeastuu.org/proposed-bylaws-changes).

## Upcoming Board Meetings

The Wy'east Board generally meets on the second Sunday of the Month. On March 8, the board will meet at the Hollywood Senior Center immediately after the special congregational meeting. On April 12, the meeting will be at 4:00 pm 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 email to [wyeast-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:wyeast-board@googlegroups.com). Someone will get back to you with location and exact time. Or, you can ask any board member at a Sunday service.

## Special Collections for March and April

March: **VERDE**

*From [www.verdenw.org](http://www.verdenw.org):* Verde serves communities by building environmental wealth through social enterprise, outreach and advocacy. Since 2005, Verde has involved community members in the planning and building of these investments, and ensured that low-income people and people of color benefit directly. Examples of green investments include greenspaces, habitat, energy efficiency and renewable energy, green streets, stormwater management facilities, environmental education and green jobs. In 2010 Verde, Hacienda Community Development Corporation, the Native American Youth and Family Center and Habitat for Humanity formed an innovative collaborative in the Cully neighborhood, Living Cully, which reinterprets sustainability as an anti-poverty strategy, as it braids environmental investment with social, economic and equity benefits. One of Living Cully's signature projects is the conversion of a former landfill into a 25-acre park: Cully Park.



April: **OREGONIANS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRESS (OREP)**



*From [www.oregonrenewables.com](http://www.oregonrenewables.com):* Our mission is to rapidly advance the transition to locally-owned and locally-generated clean renewable energy through education and innovative public policy design and implementation. We value environmental stewardship, community empowerment, integrity, equity, and leadership. At OREP we put our passion for our values into direct action, educating the public, working with partners, diving into the weedy details of proceedings at the Oregon Public Utility Commission and Northwest Power and Conservation Council, and developing smart legislative concepts that remove barriers and promote widespread ownership of renewables. In 2011 HB 3516 established rooftop solar energy systems as an outright permitted use in Oregon; in 2014 SB1520 opened the path to cooperative ownership of solar installations throughout our communities.

## Spring Beach Clean-up

The **SOLVE Spring Beach Clean-up** will be Saturday, March 28th. The Mt. Hood Cluster of UU Congregations (eight congregations in NW Oregon and Vancouver, WA) has participated as a group for several years, cleaning a beach designated for us and then gathering for a potluck afterward. We are doing it again this year, at the same beautiful beach as the past few years—Boy Scout Camp Meriwether beach, several miles south of Tillamook. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. we will gather to act on our Seventh Principle, and help take care of one little part of our earth. The report from the Park Ranger who coordinates that section of the coast is that this beach is in particular need of cleaning, due to this winter's storms and tides.

After the clean-up, those who wish can gather at a sheltered area at Cape Lookout State Park Beach for a potluck lunch. Usually we bring a basic lunch for ourselves, with desserts, snacks, etc. to share with all. A great opportunity to meet UUs from other congregations in our area!

Please consider joining us for this, and save the date! More information will be forthcoming, with links, directions, etc. The contact person at Wy'east is Lynn T. ([lurline@teleport.com](mailto:lurline@teleport.com)).

## RE Update

The Wy'east Religious Education program has three levels of classes for children to attend on Sunday mornings based on grade level. The youngest group are ages Preschool through 2nd grade taught by Kimberlee King with assistance by Willow Buswell. In this class children are taught the foundations of Unitarian Universalism and the 7 principles through guided exercises, activities and crafts. The middle group are ages 3rd through 6th grade and are taught by alternating teachers Alex Reed and Tode Oshin. In this class the children are learning the *Windows and Mirrors* curriculum designed by *Tapestry of Faith*. The highest level of RE programming is the Junior High group for ages 7th through 9th grade taught by alternating teachers Anders Liljeholm and Barbara Dow. Anders has now finished teaching the Bible from a UU perspective. The youth will finish the year reading Buddhist stories and short koans that the kids have enjoyed in the past. On the other Sundays Barbara Dow will teach about social justice using lessons from *Tapestry of Faith*.



## 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](http://www.wyeastuu.org/contact)  
or [groups.google.com/group/wyeast](https://groups.google.com/group/wyeast)  
and [groups.google.com/group/wyeast-chat](https://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.

## 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](mailto:wyeast-worship@googlegroups.com) or talk to Paul H., Christina B., Mark A., Amy O., Larry B., or Marcia Stanard.

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

## Family Friendly Environmentally Important Tree Planting

As promised when Ed Kerns spoke to us of his Lents Springwater Corridor Habitat Restoration Project for the September Special Collection, there will be a family friendly tree planting opportunity on Saturday, March 7th, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. We'll meet at Foster Crossing (a Parks & Rec property) at 104th and SE Foster Road (there is a little paved parking lot on the south side of Foster at 104th). Wear warm and possibly wet weather gear that you don't mind getting dirty. Boots too, for sure. For more info about the project: [www.lentspringwaterproject.org/Lents\\_Springwater\\_Project/Home.html](http://www.lentspringwaterproject.org/Lents_Springwater_Project/Home.html)



# 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., or Mark A.

March 1

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

March 8

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.
  - **Special Congregational Meeting** • after the potluck.
- For more info see page 3.

March 15

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

March 22

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

March 29

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am



### Sunday Potlucks

Our potlucks will be held on **March 8th** and **April 19th**. Bring a dish to share.

**THE WY'EAST POETRY GROUP** 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.

April 5

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

April 12

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **NO Potluck Brunch** • Potluck will be on April 19th

**Special Event!** Our DRE, Kimberlee King brings the tradition of **SPAGHETTI AND SONG** to Wy'east. This is the first activity planned by our new Engagement Committee. All Wy'easters are invited to a spaghetti feed (gluten free available) and songfest on **SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH from 5:30-7:30**. Bring your guitars or other instruments! (A donation of \$5 per person over 10 is appreciated to cover costs.)



April 19

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.
- **Seniors Group** • 12:00 noon

April 26

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

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS** On March 8, the board will meet at the Hollywood Senior Center immediately after the special congregational meeting. On April 12, the meeting will be at 4:00 pm at a board member's home. For more info, see page 3.

**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 1                    EDUCATION AND BELIEF**

Wy'east member and (mostly) retired educator **Larry Burt** reflects on his experience as an elementary teacher in the Portland Public Schools. How do our beliefs about children and learning affect the education we provide? How does our own education affect our beliefs?

**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 8                    POWER OF CONNECTION**

New research shows that addiction may be less about genetics and more about a lack of connection. How does connection help our broader communities? Service by our minister, **Rev. Marcia Stanard**.

This service will be followed by a congregational meeting to revise our by-laws. Please stay for potluck and a brief congregational meeting.

**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.

**Special Congregational Meeting:** After the potluck. More info on page 3.

**March 15                    A LONG HAUL PERSPECTIVE: CONNECTING EARTH AND FAITH**

**Jenny Holmes** went from geology to eco-theology as a young adult and has been on a path to connect earth and faith ever since. She co-founded one of the first local eco-faith groups while living in Washington, DC and has been the director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Environmental Ministries for 15 years, focusing on climate change and food systems. Jenny will share what has kept her going and what keeps her going now.

**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 22                    LOOKING IN, LOOKING OUT**

In this sermon that kicks off our annual stewardship campaign, we look at who we are, and what we wish to do in the 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.

**March 29                    FROM THERESIENSTADT TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: A CELEBRATION OF RESILIENCE**

**Rev. Patti Pomerantz** tells the story of Alice Herz-Sommer, who was born in Prague in 1903, survived the Terezin Concentration Camp and died last year at the age of 111. Patti writes, "I am captivated by her story – her strength in the face of unimaginable odds and her absolute joy and appreciation of life. I suspect you may be as well." Patti is thrilled to be the new parish minister at Eastrose Fellowship UU. She is also grateful for the opportunity to visit old friends at Wy'east. Life is rich.

**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 5 TO LOVE GOD IS TO LOVE LIKE GOD**

On this Easter Sunday, Rev. Marcia preaches from *Convictions*, the final work of Marcus Borg, an influential Oregon State theologian who died recently. Come hear how a truly progressive Christian speaks to us as Unitarian Universalists. Service by our minister, **Rev. Marcia Stanard** (*Note, Rev. Marcia is in the pulpit the first and third Sundays in April as opposed to her usual second and fourth Sundays*).

**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 12 NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US**

How does meaningful participation happen when so many of our neighbors are struggling to find affordable housing in healthy neighborhoods, decent education, clean air, transportation options, more job opportunities and improved safety? With those most impacted leading the way, OPAL (Organizing People / Activating Leaders) Environmental Justice organizes for change, creating opportunities to shape policies that influence all of us. Service by **Vivian Satterfield**, Associate Director of OPAL.

**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 today**, but come back at 5:30 for **Spaghetti & Song!** (See page 5 for more info.) Potluck will be April 19th.

**April 19 EVERYTHING IS HOLY NOW**

Peter Mayer's song Holy Now writes of a world where everything is a miracle. What would happen if we looked at our world that way? 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 26 WHY WY'EAST?**

We don't share a common creed or a common heritage. What is it that brings us together in a UU congregation like Wy'east? What is our function in the world? How is Wy'east different from a social club for liberals, or a comparative religion class at any local college? **Rev. Sarah Schurr** will help us look at the role of "mission" in the life of a UU congregation like ours. Sarah is minister at the West Hills UU Fellowship in Portland and is a founding member of Wy'east. She served as our new congregation organizer when Wy'east was born.

**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.

On January 4th, Randy Woodley spoke to Wy'cast about Co-Sustainability and Living with the Land. Below he shares with us the Ten Core Native American Values.

If you missed Randy's talk, you can listen to it online at <http://www.wyecastuu.org/worship/co-sustainability-and-living-land>

Randy Woodley and his family are Native Americans who have recently been displaced from their own homeland, losing everything due to racism and a justice system privileged for Whites. Randy is Distinguished Professor of Faith and Culture and Director of Indigenous and Intercultural Studies at George Fox Seminary. He and his wife Edith teach on land justice, Indigenous spirituality, and co-sustainability (among other things) from their farm in Newberg.

## TEN CORE NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES

(45 tribes, all geographies from Randy Woodley's PhD Dissertation)

### 1. **Tangible Spirituality/Our Spirituality Must Be Practiced**

- Belief in the Great Mystery/Creator
- All Creation is both Natural and Spiritual
- Continue to be Involved in Ceremonies and Traditions
- Support of tribal Societies, They Are Vital
- Use of Symbols in Everyday Life
- Authority comes from Reflected Experience, Not From Information

### 2. **Our Lives Are Governed by Harmony**

- Seek to Maintain Balance in All of Life
- Life in Harmony is Expressed as a Circle or Hoop
- Seek Peace
- Humans are Mostly Good with some Evil
- Fear is a Catalyst for Virtue

### 3. **Community is Essential**

- Women are Sacred
- Children are Loved
- Elders are Respected
- Family is Vital
- Everyone is Integrally Related

### 4. **Humor is Sacred and Necessary**

- Humor is Part of the Balance
- Both Impromptu and Designed in Ceremony



5. **Feeling of Cooperative/Communality**

- Consensus gives Dignity
- High Tolerance—Dissension is Respected
- Process includes both Hearts and Minds
- Diversity Gives Strength and Balance to Life

6. **Oral Communication and Traditions**

- Words have Primordial Power and should be used Cautiously
- Traditions are passed on Orally
- Stories are the Main Vehicle for Teaching and Sustaining
- Quiet, Respectful Communication

7. **Present and Past Time Orientation**

- Present Engagement Overrides Future Scheduling (“Indian Time”)
- Fluidity between Past and Present
- Future is Determined by Looking to the Past

8. **Open Work Ethic**

- Meaningful Work
- Work only As Needed
- Identity is in both Doing and Being
- Lifestyle with Few Constraints

9. **Great Hospitality/Generosity**

- Shown through giving gifts in ceremony
- Open home ethic, sharing resources, food, etc.

10. **Natural Connectedness to All Creation**

- Reciprocity
- Stewardship (Keeper)
- Gratitude Expressed in Ceremony
- Learning with Creation-A Dynamic, Organic Process



# UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**General Assembly is GREEN!** Look for a write up of several years' effort at making GA a more sustainable event in the Alaska Airlines magazine for January 2015. And look for volunteer opportunities with the Greening group at the event. Our goal this year is **80%** diversion from landfill!

## **It's time to be choosing your congregation's delegates.**

While GA is for everyone, delegates have the added privilege and responsibility of representing your congregation in deliberations on important issues. This year, **Congregation Presidents** who serve as delegates will also get a **\$100 rebate** on their full-time registration.

## **March is the month to apply to be a GA volunteer.**

GA volunteers get free GA registration in return for 24 hours of volunteer service at GA for adults, 14 hours for youth. The application forms will be posted on [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga) on **March 2**. Volunteers need to apply **by March 31**. So if you want to be a volunteer, don't miss that deadline! Think about it and get ready by checking out the volunteer opportunities at <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/14930.shtml>. GA runs on volunteers-we need them!

## **GA Registration & Housing Reservations open March 2.**

If you register before **May 1**, you get a lower registration rate. (You can pre-register through mid-June and even walk in and register onsite, but why not make up your mind early and take advantage of the **March-April discount**?)

For **housing**, you'll find a selection of hotels, dormitories, and UU home hospitality to choose from, at a range of prices. Descriptions of the housing options will be posted soon on [www.uua.org/GA](http://www.uua.org/GA). Again, you can sign up for housing anytime, but the early bird may have a better choice of worms.

## **March is the month to apply for Financial Aid.**

If you want to attend GA but can't afford it, talk to your congregation leadership now. Don't be shy, apply! In addition, applications for UUA financial aid will be available **March 1**, and most are due by **March 31**. Here's what's available from the UUA:

- **Congregational Matching Grant Scholarships** provide free registration and a match of your congregation's contribution toward your attendance, up to \$250. You'll need to have a recommendation and financial pledge from your congregation when you apply, so now is the time to talk to your church board. For all scholarship information, see <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/15005.shtml>
- **Youth and Young Adult Scholarships** provide free registration and up to \$500 toward expenses. Just like for volunteering, the application deadline is **March 31**.
- There are also a limited number of competitive \$1000 **Youth Group Scholarships** for youth groups who have gotten organized to raise money and bring most of their group to GA. Check out <http://www.uua.org/re/youth/events/gacaucus/56024.shtml>
- **Davidoff Fund Scholarships** cover the cost of GA registration for lay delegates from congregations who have not been represented by lay leaders at GA in the last three years. The application period is March 2 through April 30. Application form is online from last year. Max award is \$500.

**Watch for announcements** of pre-GA recreational opportunities! Hikes and scenic drives in the Columbia Gorge! Extend your stay! Arrive early! Log on to [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga).

## ***WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING NOW?***

The local folks are lining up an array of **historical and cultural tours** to help you get a taste of Portland's cuisine, with dining groups ready to introduce you to top culinary spot, with foods in many varieties and price ranges.)

**The GA Service Project** has been launched, and will be on display at General Assembly in Portland. Featured is Reentry Transition Center, a local Portland agency that supports former inmates as the return to productive roles in society. The agency's success rate is a remarkable 95%. Look for announcements of on-site times to connect with this program.

## **GA Programs**

Programs have been selected, with a fantastic array of talks, workshops and worships. More workshops than last year because less time in General Session. At any given time, you'll be torn by a host of great options for where to direct your attention. The full schedule will be posted in the next month or so. There will be concert and dance options in the late evenings too. Witness project/experience on Climate Change will be featured.

Remember, General Assembly won't be this close to home for a long, long time, so don't let this chance pass you by. ***See you in Portland!***

Ken Wheeler  
District GA Coordinator, 2015