



# 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

May/June 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...

When Fred Rodgers was a little boy and was frightened of the newsreel footage from World War II, his mother leaned over and told him to "look for the helpers." In this last month of difficult situations both within our community and in our nation, those words echo in my mind. Our community faced its first death in several years when Stephen Collopy passed away, and I was so proud of how people from our community have stepped up and helped, giving CPR, sharing information with the medical examiner, and helping with the memorial service. We've had some joyous news as well, with the placement of a newborn foster daughter with Katy and Anders, and once again, our community has stepped forward with baby gear and food and help for the new parents. It is a joy to be part of this community.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Sunday Sermons

5/5	<b>An Organizer Shares His Life and His Work</b>	Romeo Sosa & Andrea Valderrama
5/12	<b>Can We Ever Have It All?</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
5/19	<b>Habits of the Heart</b>	Rev. Bill Sinkford
5/26	<b>Remembering our Seven Principles</b>	Intergenerational Service
6/2	<b>A Local Native American Shares His Stories</b>	Ed Edmo
6/9	<b>The Blessings of Summer</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
6/16	<b>Gay Pride Parade Sunday</b>	No service at Senior Center
6/23	<b>Go Ask Alice</b>	Andrea Carlisle
6/30	<b>Being Brave</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard

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

## From the Minister *(Continued)*

And this community offers us sustenance as we make sense of the wrenching news happening elsewhere. Our values of Standing on the Side of Love teach us to stand with those who are marginalized. Time and time again, I am encouraged by communities who have come together in the wake of tragedy, such as after the shootings at Sandy Hook, and then the terrorist attack in Boston recently. Boston is pulling together in a beautiful and inspiring way, with restaurants feeding stranded runners, and people who have just finished running 26.2 miles, running another two to get to the hospital and donate blood. I am beyond frustrated that many senators can not come together in the same spirit to pass common sense gun legislation.

Let us both teach our children, and remind ourselves, not only that the Spirit of Life is in the helpers not in the tragedy, but that we can be the helpers.

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](mailto:wyeast-re@googlegroups.com).

If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to [wyeastboard@googlegroups.com](mailto:wyeastboard@googlegroups.com) or talk to any board member on Sundays at church.

## Volunteers Needed

Looking for a way to deepen your connection with Wy'east? Want the satisfaction that comes with knowing people are counting on you, and your participation matters? While there are always volunteer possibilities, right now the two jobs that most urgently need filling are **teachers for the Religious Education Program**, and **set up & tear down volunteers**. RE teachers will work with our lead teacher/DRE Ashley, who will be in charge of lesson plans. Each RE volunteer will teach one of our RE classes every two to three weeks (depending on the number of volunteers). Set up/tear down volunteers will help set up the space for worship one or two Sundays per month, and then put things away when we finish. RE teachers must be able to pass a background check and set up volunteers must be able to lift and move chairs. If interested, please contact Rev. Marcia.

## Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the July/August issue submissions is Thursday, June 20th. 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>

## Special Collections for May and June

Due to logistical considerations with our calendar of worship services the next two months, both of our Special Collections will be on the first Sunday of the month, instead of the usual third. So, we'll raise money on **May 5th** for the **Voz Workers' Rights Education Project**, to coincide with our speakers from there that day.

From their website: "Voz is a worker-led organization that empowers immigrants and day laborers to gain control over their working conditions through leadership development, organizing, and community education." And on **June 2nd**, we'll

collect for **Red Lodge Transition Services**, to line up with our Native American speaker that day. From the website, their



mission is "To prevent incarceration and reduce recidivism primarily among Native American women and men. To provide assistance for individuals released from jails and prisons, who are working on creating a better life for themselves, their children, and communities."



## Thank you "Beach Cleaners"

On March 30, ten Wy'easters joined forces with other area UU congregations to participate in the annual SOLV Spring Beach Cleanup. Dozens of bags of trash, some with Japanese characters, were removed from a lovely strand of Oregon Beach. Afterwards the group shared snacks and desserts and lots of conversation with UUs from other congregations in the Portland area.

We are proud of the wonderful gift all the participants gave to our state.

## 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](http://groups.google.com/group/wyeast)  
and [groups.google.com/group/wyeast-chat](http://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.

## Wy'east Annual Meeting

Wy'east members and friends: Please join us on Sunday, May 19th, for our annual congregational meeting from 12pm to 1pm after the service.

As we approach this new church year, we will do important things like:

- Approve next year's budget
- Re-elect Board members  
and
- Re-elect a Nominating Committee member.

Being a small congregation means that every member's vote really counts, so we hope you will join us.

## Giving to Wy'east directly from your IRA

Will you be 70 1/2 by the end of the year? Do you have an IRA? Do you want to take a tax deduction for your pledge to Wy'east but don't have enough deductions to itemize, or have just barely enough to itemize? You probably already know that you are going to have to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD in IRS speak) from your IRA. You may not know that the IRS has extended the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) tax break to the end of 2013. I didn't. It works like this: You arrange for your IRA administrator to pay your pledge directly to Wy'east (or other tax exempt organization). That distribution then becomes tax exempt. In effect, you get a charitable deduction even if you don't itemize deductions on your 2013 tax return. Neat, huh? Any questions? Contact Barbara S-T; I'm at church most Sundays.

## Generational Shift and Congregational Vitality Study

Wy'east, along with other UU congregations, has been invited to participate in a research project exploring the impact of current shifts in generational configuration within our congregations on congregational vitality. Researcher Rev. Dr. Linda Weaver Horton, currently minister of the Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna, BC, has undertaken this study as a Sabbatical project, drawing upon her former training and experience as a social scientist. She has served on the UUA Commission on Appraisal, and was a primary author of their report "Engaging our Theological Diversity" in 2005.

Many congregations are challenged as older generations are aging out of active participation in the leadership, volunteering and financial support of our religious communities. Most have depended heavily upon the culture of commitment to church life characteristic of what is now the eldest generation, in particular their commitment to create and hold community and to take responsibility for mentoring younger generations. Wy'east is a great role model for how a small congregation can be fully intergenerational, so your participation is particularly helpful! 10 of you have contributed questionnaires so far; 25 or 30 could tell us some interesting things about this congregation.

Given the accelerated rate of change in our world, our vitality as a religious movement depends more than ever upon becoming allies across generations in order to live out our mission in the world. What is learned from this study could help our denomination, as well as participating congregations, to better understand this dynamic and enhance congregational vitality.

To participate in this study, members of your congregation are invited to complete a questionnaire, and perhaps host generational focus groups (there is a process guide available). Copies of the questionnaire are on the literature table, or can be requested in e-form from Rev. Horton. They can be returned to her daughter Aurora B. at church, or mailed to her at 825 NW Fargo St., Camas, WA 98607. For more information, electronic questionnaire or focus group guide, contact researcher Rev. Linda Weaver Horton at: [revlwhorton@yahoo.ca](mailto:revlwhorton@yahoo.ca).

## The Helpers and the Hope, a prayer in the wake of the Boston bombings

Holy One,  
We are on our knees  
In awe and supplication  
For we have remembered the incomprehensible value  
Of every human life.  
We have heard the thrum of helicopter blades  
And wailing sirens.  
We have smelled the ash and smoke.  
We have seen the blood-spattered sidewalks  
And the ravaged bodies of your children.  
We cannot un-see.

Help us, dear God.  
Bathe our ears  
Soothe our senses  
Flush our eyes  
Wrap your mother's arms around us,  
For we need to be reminded of you,  
to remember what is holy  
and good.

We ask for the strength to remember that  
We are the helpers.  
We are the hope.  
We are the face behind the bomb suit  
We are the children rushing to answer their fathers'  
feverish texts  
We are running the 27th mile to donate blood  
We are kindness to strangers  
We are the searching dog  
We are hearts glued to the television  
We are compassion for whoever did this, and  
For the suffering life out of which this violence came  
We are on our knees cleaning blood off hospital floors  
We are the impulse to run toward chaos.

We are the helpers, and the hope.  
Inside our breaking hearts is all the evidence we need  
That an unshakable conspiracy of goodness thrives in  
rubble and ash.

*Rev. Sue Phillips  
Boston, MA  
April 16, 2013*

## Special events on the first Sundays of the next two months

After the service on **May 5th**, there will be a special **Cinco de Mayo** presentation by an original member of this congregation, a Latina named **Lavaun Heaster**, beginning at 12:00 noon. Lavaun will be leading an interactive experience that includes storytelling, a display of her multi-ethnic art, our responding to that art in groups, and her presenting Wy'east with one of her original pieces, a chalice of diversity.

And after the service on **June 2nd**, our speaker for that day, **Ed Edmo**, will also be presenting **Native American stories** for all ages beginning at noon. Ed was born in a Columbia River Gorge fishing village, and he has been storytelling for years. We're hoping to have lots of our kids and families attend this event, because it's a unique opportunity to learn something about the original inhabitants of this land.

### SPECIAL THANKS

Wy'east Congregation members have cooked and served one Thursday evening supper each month since December 2012 at the homeless family winter shelter at Parkrose Community United Church of Christ. Our last dinner for this season was Thursday April 11. Over the course of the 5 months of dinners, more than 25 congregation members, accompanied by children, family members and even a Girl Scout troop, cooked and/or served dinners of delicious, nutritious and comforting food to the 25-35 adults and children staying at the shelter each night.

Special thanks to Hank and Betty H., Diane I. and Larry B. who cooked, served and cleaned up at **every** dinner. Extra thank yous to Barbara S-T, Linda B., Linda and Bruce M., D'On V., & Barbara R. who cooked and/or came to serve more than once. And grateful thanks to Mark A., Christine B., Danielle C. (& Girl Scout troop), Nancy D., Robyn K., Katy & Anders L., Amy N., Mary P., Mabel P., Shannon S., Debra & Justice T., Jammie M. and April W. who all prepared food and/or came to serve at least once.

Anyone who helped who is not listed here, please accept my apologies for the omission but know that every bit of help was both needed and appreciated.

We owe particular gratitude to Clay O., a member of the Parkrose Congregation, who met us at the church each time to let us in. He introduced us to the magnificent order of the Parkrose CUCC kitchen and showed us how to operate their vintage but perfectly functional cylindrical dishwasher!

# BEFORE & AFTER Worship

## Programming in May & June

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

May 5

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Cinco de Mayo Presentation** • 12:00 noon

May 12

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

May 19

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- Annual Congregational Meeting • 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
(see page 3)

May 26

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



June 2

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Native American Stories** • 12:00 pm

June 9

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

June 16

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

June 23

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

June 30

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

## UU Adventures in Eating

### Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks will be held on **May 12th** and **June 9th**. 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](mailto:wyeast-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.

May

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

**May 5 AN ORGANIZER SHARES HIS LIFE AND HIS WORK**

**Romeo Sosa**, the Executive Director of the Voz Workers' Rights Education Project, (the word voz means voice in Spanish), will be speaking to us this morning about his life as an immigrant and his work as an organizer. He will be assisted by Voz's Development Director, **Andrea Valderrama**. We'll also be taking a Special Collection for Voz on this same day.

**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.

**May 12 CAN WE EVER HAVE IT ALL?**

Parenting styles have changed drastically over the last 50 years, from "Go out and play, just be home by dinner" to the dreaded "Helicopter Parents" said to control every aspect of their children's lives. How can we find the balance? And, as a faith community, how can we support parents among us to raise the next generation? 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.

Our seventh principle:

*Respect* for the  
Interdependent Web of all  
*existence* of which we are  
a part.

**May 19 HABITS OF THE HEART**

As Americans, we have been given a promise. It is ours to redeem. What vision of our life together can support both collective responsibility and individual freedom? What course correction is needed to make space for both? Service by **Rev. Bill Sinkford**, Senior Minister at First Unitarian Church of Portland.

**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.

**Annual Meeting:** At our Annual Business meeting we will vote to approve the budget and elect board members and a member of the nominating committee. The meeting will be held after a short social hour, so other activities and meetings can continue as planned.

**May 26 INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE: REMEMBERING OUR SEVEN PRINCIPLES**

This intergenerational service will feature the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism--particularly from a kid's perspective. We'll learn a handy song that can help adults remember which one is which, and talk about what kids and adults have learned about our Unitarian Universalist faith this year. Service by our minister, **Rev. Marcia Stanard**.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K-8th Grade): There will be no RE, as this is an intergenerational service. Childcare will be available.

**Social Hour:** Join us for refreshments after the service.

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

**June 2                    A LOCAL NATIVE AMERICAN SHARES HIS STORIES**

**Ed Edmo**, a well-known, local Native American activist, story-teller, and poet will speak to us on his background of growing up in the Columbia Gorge (he was born at the Celilo Falls, which were later inundated by the building of The Dalles Dam), and where his life has led, always being true to those roots. We'll take a Special Collection for Red Lodge Transition Services (where Ed is on the board), a group that works with Native American women returning from incarceration, and after our worship service, Ed will be telling Indian stories for all ages, beginning at noon.

**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.

**June 9                    THE BLESSINGS OF SUMMER**

If winter is a time to nestle in, move slowly and reflect, summer is a time to explore, dream, and expand our horizons. This service will feature poetry that celebrates nature and the season of outdoor adventures. 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.

**June 16                    GAY PRIDE PARADE SUNDAY**

On this day, as Wy'east has done for the last two years in June, we will be joining the **Gay Pride Parade** as a congregation, and there will be *no service at the Senior Center*. We'll be connecting with other UU congregations from our area, and will march in the parade as one group. The time and place of our connecting is not known at this point, but check your emails and our website for further information. One thing clear is that it would be great for as many of us as possible to wear *Standing on the Side of Love* T-shirts ([standingonthesideoflove.org](http://standingonthesideoflove.org)), or at least wear yellow.

**June 23                    GO ASK ALICE**

**Andrea Carlisle** was happy in Portland spending time with a close circle of friends, enjoying her houseboat, and living a quiet life as a book editor, writer, and teacher. But after a death occurred in the family, she noticed a slow decline in her usually hearty mother Alice back in Iowa, who at age 93, was now rarely leaving her house. Something had to change. The change was Alice's move to an assisted living facility 12 minutes from Andrea's houseboat. And although they'd never gotten along well in the past, their new life together has turned out to be an adventure in how to transform a relationship. Alice is currently 97, and Andrea's life has been turned upside down and inside out by the mother she never really knew. Until now.

**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.

**June 30                    BEING BRAVE**

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Do one thing every day that scares you." What makes us brave? What does it mean to be scared, and do things anyway? Does this have anything to do with roller coasters? 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.