



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

May/June 2017

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*Wy'east meets at the
Hollywood Senior Center
(HSC) at 1820 NE 40th,
Portland, Oregon. Services
begin at 10:30 a.m.*

*Service Animals
Welcome*

*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!*

WRITTEN OFFERINGS – from Rev. Craig Moro

Last month we held our Charter Sunday celebration. It was more than a nostalgic review of the past twenty years. There was also sense of discovery. Seeing where we began, and all that has proceeded from the choices that we made! Yes, we meet in a different building from where we started out. The building is not what matters. You can see this from the very name our founders chose: Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Not “Fellowship” or “Society” or “Church”, but *Congregation*. It's a name that invites newcomers from any religious background—or from none at all.

“Church” is closely associated with a specifically Christian form of worship in most people's minds. “Congregation” may carry less baggage. For some folks coming from a Christian background the word “church” holds negative memories and may be an impediment to visiting, much less staying on. For those with roots in a Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu setting, visiting or joining a “church” might suggest renunciation of a whole religious past and the loss of one's place within it.

But to associate oneself with the Unitarian Universalist movement is not a matter of “conversion.” Rather, it is a process of polishing the treasures we bring from our earlier spiritual journeys or past religious homes.

(Continued on page 2)

SUNDAY SERMONS

5/7	The Last Samaritan	Rev. Craig Moro
5/14	Flower Communion	Rev. Sarah Schurr
5/21	Who's the Bum in Row 80?	Rev. Craig Moro
5/28	Three Impossible Things Before Breakfast	Monica Jacobsen-Tennessee
6/4	Who's the Girl in Row 81?	Rev. Craig Moro
6/11	Naked Noah	Rev. Craig Moro
6/18	Standing on the Side of Love	Wy'east members
6/25	An Experiment in Community	Susanna Rempel

(For sermon details, See “2 Months Of Sundays,” on Pages 6 & 7)

Written Offerings

(Continued from page 1) There is no requirement for a newcomer to renounce his or her religious heritage in order to be welcome among us. We delight in what you bring! However, we do expect all who join our congregations to be in covenant with our seven Principles and to respect the Sources of our living tradition, including some that may at first seem exotic or unfamiliar.

Look closely at those, and you'll see that we welcome the treasures but not the weapons too often forged in the name of "faith." We reject any divine scheme that sets certain communities or individuals above all others or below them. We will not make targets or victims of those with whom we disagree. One of our favorite hymns, "Come, Come, Whoever You Are," invites wanderers from every background to share in a joyful journey. Here is a congregation of travelers, not a warehouse of beliefs. Walk with...us. And so let us raise a stronger song together—in *congregation!*

In faith and fellowship,

Craig Moro

[Rev. Moro can be reached by email, cmoro@willamette.edu or by phone at 503-851-4757, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Email is usually best.]

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, please contact Hank H.

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

Wy'east Board Meetings

The board meets on the **second Tuesday** of the month, so the upcoming meetings are **May 9th** and **June 13th**, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. We meet at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church (1907 NE 45th Ave.), either in the library or the conference room next to our office.

If you are planning to come to the meeting be sure to let a board member know so that we can make sure someone monitors the door to let you in.

Wy'east Social Justice Committee Looking for New Members

The Social Justice Committee consists of people from the congregation who want to further the social justice work of Wy'east. The congregation already does a lot with our support of the Village Support Network and the monthly homeless family dinners during the winter. What the Committee adds are monthly special collections and guest speakers, coordinated around the annual social justice theme, which was Housing Justice this year. How does this magic happen? The magic is the Social Justice Committee.

How is it accomplished? Each year a social justice theme is chosen by the congregation, and our proposed theme for next year is Women. Individuals on the Committee contact groups that focus on the theme, to better understand their missions and goals. We discuss the possibility of their participation as either being a special collection recipient or providing us with one of the five guest speakers we have on the theme every year. We learn a lot about these local groups, and they are very grateful in being considered. When we have them speak during our services, Wy'east gets a chance to learn about many various

organizations, and we help worthy causes that serve our community as well as the wider world. We have been averaging more than \$400 every month in the special collections that we raise for these groups. And something we're looking forward to in the future is having more than just a one month connection with a couple of these groups a year.

So, what do you think? Would you like to join us on the Social Justice Committee and be a part of the magic? Membership is free. Come to our meeting on May 7th, the first Sunday of the month, at 9:00 AM. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Barbara D, Chandra, Donna, Emé, Jocelyn, Mathias

Special Collections for May and June

May: JOIN



from their website:

JOIN exists to support the efforts of homeless individuals and families to transition off the streets and into permanent housing. We envision a community where homelessness, if it exists at all, is a short-term circumstance rather

than a long-term or chronic condition. Since hiring our first Outreach Worker in 1998, JOIN has helped over 5,000 men, women, and children transition out of homelessness and into the safety of permanent housing. JOIN works with individuals and families sleeping on the streets in the city of Portland without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, family status, sexual orientation, disability, or diagnosis. JOIN houses an average of 500 individuals each year from 250 households. JOIN's Outreach Services Program is designed to address the systemic need for greater service accessibility and to re-engage homeless people in positive processes of change. It is founded upon the efforts of 6 outreach workers who visit campsites, meal sites, and other places that homeless people gather out on the street. They develop personal relationships, provide ongoing support, and engage homeless people in processes of positive personal change that lead to successful and sustainable transitions off the street. Basic services such as showers, laundry, and personal storage are provided at JOIN's facility within the context

of a barter exchange system. This system promotes individual dignity by allowing participants to earn and select the service they need. Additional services include personal hygiene items, sleeping bags and blankets, contact address and telephone number, mail, bus tickets, and Oregon ID. Outreach services emphasize transitions out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Specifically this means helping to secure benefits or employment that will enable the payment of rent and supporting housing searches with funding for application fees and move-in deposits. We stay involved with people for at least 12 months and will provide limited funds for housing retention services for those people with whom we have been working.

www.joinpdx.org

June: COALITION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

from their website:

In 2010 the CCC launched a comprehensive leadership development initiative, called Bridges, driven by the Coalition's values of honoring cultural-specificity while also building a multicultural movement for collective action. Our mission is to significantly expand the capacity of our communities to self-organize, network, build culturally-specific social capital, and provide leadership within and outside communities of color. Bridges houses six culturally-specific leadership development programs led by CCC member organizations and provides ongoing support through leadership placements, mentorship and community networking. Over 300 graduates are now part of a growing network of community leaders throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. We are committed to this work in the long-term and recognize that meaningfully changing the face of leadership in Oregon is a multi-generational effort. In order to achieve our shared policy goals, we are committed to: building the capacity of communities and organizations of color to successfully advance policy agendas; reforming policy practices to ensure authentic community engagement of the communities most directly impacted by policy change; shifting discourses to centralize the voices of communities of color in policy conversations; and building partnerships and coalitions with allied individuals and organizations.



www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org

Wy'Camp Volunteers Needed

Every year our Religious Education teachers take the summer off from teaching. During this time, we invite volunteers to hang out with our kids during Sunday service and provide a 15 minute activity. Volunteers can read a favorite children's book, bring and tell about an object found traveling, or provide some other interesting activity. Last year we learned about yoga, drumming and friends; we made ice cream, paintings and paper crafts. Our childcare person, Fiona, will be in attendance most weeks to help with the youngest kids.

We need one volunteer for each Sunday from June 25 to September 3, except for July 2 when we'll be meeting for a picnic in the a park. We also need a few extra volunteers when Fiona is out of town to help herd the children across the street and keep them safe. If you are interested in volunteering for a week, please let Anders know.

A Choir Arising at Wy'east

There's a new choir at Wy'east, and in the spirit of our emerging small group Chalice Circles (you'll be hearing more about these in the next newsletter), it's a Chalice Circle Choir! This group of people who love to sing will meet regularly to rehearse "sing together" hymns for upcoming Sundays. Like with Unitarian Universalism as a whole, the songs may be chosen from all traditions and cultures, from the sacred to the secular. No previous experience or talent is necessary. All that's required is a love of singing and a desire to do it together. And the musical opportunities are not just vocal; maybe you play an instrument. All those interested in contributing to the choir may contact new Wy'east member Lesson B. or Linda Jo.



Wy'east Annual Meeting

The **2017 Annual Meeting** of the members of Wy'east will be after the Sunday service on **May 21**, following a brief time for coffee and snacks. Items on the agenda include: election of board members and nominating committee members for the upcoming year; approval of the proposed budget for the upcoming year; selection of the social justice theme for the upcoming year; approval of the minutes of the meetings of the congregation in the past year; and an annual report of the activities of the congregation.

Two weeks before the Annual Meeting, on **May 7**, we will have a **congregational conversation** to discuss the budget that will be considered at the Annual Meeting. This is when our treasurer – D'On this year – summarizes our financial situation as the current fiscal year ends and presents a draft budget for the next fiscal year for discussion. Based on the discussion at this meeting, D'On may revise the draft budget so that the board can recommend a budget to be voted on at the annual meeting. This meeting also follows a brief time for coffee and snacks after the service.

Anyone who has been a member of Wy'east for more than 30 days and who has made a contribution of money, material, or labor in the past 15 months is entitled to vote at a congregational meeting, except members under 18 years of age, who may not vote on the budget. Wy'east's bylaws provide for both voting by absentee ballot and designating a proxy to act on a member's behalf at a meeting. Absentee ballots will be available at church on May 7 and May 14, or you can contact me to email you an absentee ballot. To designate someone as your proxy, give them a signed proxy form (also available at church on May 7 and 14) prior to the meeting, authorizing them to act as your proxy. A member is allowed to serve as proxy for up to six other members.

Non-member friends are welcome to attend both meetings and participate in the discussion, but voting is a privilege of membership.

Our fifth principle: "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large," reminds us that participating in the governance of Wy'east is religious work. I hope to see you at our meetings in May.

Barbara Smith-Thomas, Secretary

Before & After Worship

Programming in May & June

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in the future, please contact Linda M., Paul H., or Mark A.

May 7

- **Social Time** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Congregational Budget Conversation**

May 14

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

May 21

- **Social Time** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Annual Meeting**

May 28

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Seniors' Group** • 12:00 noon



June 4

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share.
- **Youth Discussion** • 11:40, in the classroom

June 11

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Poetry Group** • 12:00 noon

June 18

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.

June 25

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Seniors' Group** • 12:00 noon

SUNDAY POTLUCKS

Our May potluck will be held on **May 14th**. The June potluck will be on the first Sunday, as usual—**June 4th**. Bring a dish to share.



YOUTH DISCUSSION - On each potluck Sunday, the Religious Education committee invites any interested youth (grades 6-12) to get together after the worship and discuss that week's sermon. We'll get our lunch and then meet and eat in the classroom.

The **SENIORS' GROUP** at Wy'east meets every month at the home of Barbara R., within walking distance of the Senior Center. Typically, meetings are after the service on the third Sunday of the month, but, because of scheduling conflicts, it will be on the **fourth Sunday** in both May and June. Barbara always makes something good to eat, and others bring things to go with it. The monthly topic is engaging – be it past, present, or future. And the definition of senior is flexible – your choice.

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 **second Sunday** of every month, noon till one. 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.

May 7 THE LAST SAMARITAN

We've all heard of the Good Samaritan, but few of us know what "Samaritan" really means. Is it something like a Martian or another kind of alien? Why would someone like *that* do a good turn for someone like you or me? And why might some folks resent it when it happens? Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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 14 FLOWER COMMUNION

Come join our intergenerational service celebrating this historic Unitarian ritual of spring. Bring a flower from your garden, a nearby field, or the local market, and see what a beautiful bouquet we can make. Service led by **Rev. Sarah Schurr**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education: This is an intergenerational service. School age children are invited to stay and participate. Nursery care will be provided for infants and toddlers.

Wyeast Potluck Brunch: 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

May 21 WHO'S THE BUM IN ROW 80?

Once a prophet frowned and turned away from a strange old man who'd asked him a question. 600 years later, a poet set this encounter to verse. Almost 800 years after that, a minister was looking for a way to connect the two when Wyeast member Mark A. provided the link. Let's see how they all fit together this morning! Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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 28 THREE IMPOSSIBLE THINGS BEFORE BREAKFAST

As Unitarian Universalists, we tend to test our ideas and beliefs rigorously, or sometimes to choose to let the mystery be, but we don't often believe in things we call impossible. Or do we? Let's examine what possibilities might have meaning for us. Service by **Monica Jacobsen-Tennessee**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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 4 WHO'S THE GIRL IN ROW 81?

The Qur'an tells us that at the end of the world, a tiny voice will ask a big question of us all. What's the question, and how will we answer? Is there some way to prepare in advance? Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.

June 11 NAKED NOAH

What happened to Noah and his family after that “floody-floody” which many of us remember from Sunday school or Bible camp? It's a somewhat embarrassing story – with the accent on the “bare” part! Let's blush alongside this early patriarch as we celebrate Father's Day one week early. Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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 18 STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE

The third Sunday in June is both Father's Day and Portland's annual Gay Pride Parade Day. Join us in “Standing on the Side of Love” with a fun, intergenerational art and sign-making service. We will sing some songs together and make art. Those who wish to can then caravan by car or bus to literally Stand on the Side of Love at the Gay Pride Parade with or without your sign! Service led by **Wy'east members**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education: This is an intergenerational service. School age children are invited to stay and participate. Nursery care will be provided for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

June 25 AN EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNITY

Susanna Rempel, the new Executive Director for New City Initiative, joins us as our final speaker of the church year in our Housing Justice series. We are most familiar with this organization through our congregation's work with the Village Support Network. Come and explore this group's radically simple approach to building community.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.