



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 2014

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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!*

Marcia's Musings

*Wayfarer, the only way
is your footsteps, there is no other.*

*Wayfarer, there is no way,
you make the way by walking.
As you go, you make the way
and stopping to look behind,
you see the path that your feet
will never travel again.*

*Wayfarer, there is no way -
Only foam trails to the sea.*

~ Antonio Machado ~

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Sunday Sermons

5/4	This I Believe	Larry Burt
5/11	Intergenerational Flower Communion	Rev. Marcia Stanard
5/18	Justice that Rebuilds Lives	Shannon Wight
5/25	Love beyond Belief	Rev. Marcia Stanard
6/1	It Takes A Village	Paul Schroeder
6/8	Stories from Walden Pond	Rev. Marcia Stanard
6/15	Gay Pride Parade Sunday	
6/22	A Daniel in the Lion's Den Experience	Emanuel Price
6/29	Recent Lessons from Being Alive	Mark Alter

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

From the Minister *(Continued)*

We make the way by walking. This is true not only about our own lives, but about our religious community. This congregation is what it is because we make it so. All together—each of us working, singing, organizing and acting our way into being. We become who we are on Sunday mornings, when we're gracious with newcomers, regular visitors, and people whose immediate needs might be lunch and a cup of coffee. We become who we are on Friday nights, when several of us gather together to feed folks at the shelter in Parkrose. We become who we are on Saturday afternoons, when Lana and Alex teach our youth about healthy sexuality. We become who we are on Sundays, after church, when our senior group, and our poetry group meet to share companionship and common interests. And we become who we are on Sunday evenings, when the Board gathers to do the work of the congregation.

This year as the Board reflected on our financial needs for the upcoming year, we discussed where we wanted to go. We gave small raises to our childcare/setup person, our Religious Education coordinator, and our minister, and are funding retirement contributions for our minister in lieu of paying for her health insurance. Our rent is going up a bit, and we've decided to give more money to our worship committee, which does a wonderful job bringing in guest speakers on the Sundays. Rev. Marcia isn't in the pulpit.

But in taking a long-term view, the Board's aspirational item is to hire a very part-time administrator. Currently, we have our administrative needs taken care of by several volunteers. One person writes checks and manages financials, another updates records, and another makes our deposits. One person maintains our website and someone else makes nametags. Our board members act as liaisons between our congregation and our insurance company and between Wy'east and the UUA.

Many people get great satisfaction from the various ways they contribute to Wy'east, and our volunteers do an amazing job. We've been lucky with the skill and dedication our volunteers have shown. However, it is sometimes difficult to have tasks divided up between several people. Our records are in different places, and we don't have the institutional memory we might have with a paid administrator. Besides, Marcia could use someone to keep her organized, and that's a job no volunteer would want!

At Wy'east, we've always taken pride in our volunteer ethos. At its best, it is financially prudent to have jobs done by volunteers, and it leads to a sense of investment and ownership by the congregation. But growing our congregation—both in numbers and in service to the community—is a goal, and studies indicate that having a paid office support person is an important step towards that.

Your board believes that hiring an administrator—about five hours a week—would help enable Wy'east to take the next step towards becoming who we are, and who we are meant to be. We don't know yet exactly what the job will entail—we will be talking to the many volunteers who do administrative pieces to see what tasks would make sense for a paid staff person to take on. We hope you'll be supportive. Blessed be, and Amen.

-Rev. Marcia

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 service, please contact anyone from the Worship Committee.

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.

Special Collections for May and June

May: **Partnership for Safety and Justice**

Adapted from the PSJ website:

What needs to change in Oregon's criminal justice system. As Oregonians, we are concerned about the ever-increasing size, cost, and ineffectiveness of our criminal justice system. We are also concerned with the lack of attention and funding for support services for crime survivors. We believe it is time for a more effective and fiscally-responsible approach to public safety. We strive to ensure Oregon's approach to public safety is based on the principles of safety, prevention, accountability, healing, rehabilitation, and justice. Partnership for Safety and Justice has four distinct programs. Safety and Sentencing program. Crime Survivor Program. Youth Justice. Legislative work.



June: **Second Chances Are For Everyone** (S.C.A.F.E.)

From the SCAFE website:

Mission: SCAFE works to reduce the rate of recidivism by providing support services to promote employment, empowerment, and community engagement for men (and now women) in transition because Second Chances are for Everyone.

Vision: SCAFE reduces barriers to employment by: providing professional clothing, offering workshops in writing resumes and cover letters, conducting mock interviews, training men (and now women) in professionalism and communication, assisting in the process of pursuing training and education, reaching out to businesses, seeking professional opportunities.



The Sources of Unitarian Universalism

Adopted by the Unitarian Universalist Association in 1984 and amended in 1995.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

The "Six Sources" are formally part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's statement of Principles.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the July/August issue submissions is Thursday, June 19th. 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>

Wy'east Village Support Network Team

One year ago, a couple of Wy'easters attended a training by the Village Support Network (a program run by the New City Initiative organization) to learn how we could form a team to help a family get back on its feet after being homeless. By June, a team of seven had been formed and attended training, and by the end of that month, we had been matched with a family (a young mother with two children). Over the next six months, we worked with our family to assist with practical things, like helping the mom set up her new apartment, find social services she needed, and clear up some of the problems that had accumulated during her time of being homeless. We also formed a close relationship with the mom and talked deeply with her about her life, dreams, and goals. Against all odds she has made real progress. She now has a job and is on the road to building a stable life for herself and her children.

At least three of the members of that original team are interested in starting to work with another family... probably in September. However, training will be offered Sunday, June 1st. We would like to encourage anyone who might be interested in being part of the team to attend the June 1st training as the next training won't be offered until October, and we'd like to get started with a new family before then. You do need to have attended the training before participating. The training is free and they serve a lovely lunch prepared by the New City Initiative Kitchen (a job training program run for folks in the Village Support Network program). Attending the training may help you decide if you want to participate on our Wy'east team. Please let Carol B. or Barbara R. know if you would like to attend the June 1st training.

Any of us on the team would be happy to talk with you if you are interested in finding out about being on the next team. This was a challenging but extremely meaningful experience. We developed deep relationships with each other and with "our" family. This can be a time consuming commitment, but we will have at least 3 or 4 retired folks on the team who can make phone calls and attend to tasks during the week, so the time commitment can vary widely. We guarantee that you will learn a lot about our social network (frayed as it is) and that you will feel you are living your UU values. Plus you will make new friends!

Mamas Day

(from www.uua.org) Mother's Day was originally founded as an antiwar rallying cry by Unitarian Julia Ward Howe. Mother's Day can be more than a day for flowers and pancakes. With "Mamas Day", we hear a call to honor all those who mother, especially those who bear the brunt of hurtful policies or who are weighed down by stigma in our culture. We celebrate trans mamas, immigrant mamas, single mamas, lesbian mamas, young mamas, and others. It's opportunity to take action to create the conditions so that all families can thrive.

Strong Families (strongfamiliesmovement.org) is a national initiative, of which the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is a part, to change policy and culture in support of all families. Their annual Mamas Day Our Way campaign lifts up and celebrates the magic and heartbreak of being a mama. For Mamas Day 2014, we draw attention to the community, collaboration, and context that mamahood occurs within. We are interdependent. What systems support mamahood and make it possible, and what constrains mamahood and makes it more difficult?

Meditation on Flower Communion Sunday

William B. Rice - *Adapted from Flower Sunday, 1969*

On a day such as this may a great change come upon us. The sounds we have been hearing have been discordant; the sights we have been seeing have been violent; the words we have been reading have been hateful. All this has been wearying, discouraging and distracting. In our hearts we had a dream of love and in our minds we had a pattern of community, but this has been a sorry season of discontent, most difficult for visions.

Today is a new day: truly an hour for hope and joy and gladness. Let us be thankful for the persistence of flowers, and open ourselves to their long wisdom. Often they grow in spite of terrible winters and miserable summers. Strange beauty greets us in unexpected places, as if there is a particular grace that is stronger than our carelessness and indifference. But when we tend our gardens with love and care, the reward can be greater than the effort.

It is most wise to combine flowers and children in a day of celebration, for flowers and children ever speak to us of wonders and glories yet to be, of hopes fulfilled if we tend our gardens and our homes with patience and wisdom and love.

Flower Communion & Mamas Day – Sunday, May 11.

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in May & June

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.

May 4

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

May 11

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

May 18

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

May 25

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



June 1

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

June 8

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

June 15

- **Gay Pride Parade** • No events at church.

June 22

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

June 29

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks will be held on **May 11th** and **June 8th**. 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!**

May

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

May 4 THIS I BELIEVE

As part of our ongoing series of This I Believe talks given by Wy'east members, **Larry Burt** shares the current state of his belief system. Raised Presbyterian in the Willamette Valley, Larry left that community 50 years ago to attend college in Portland. He began transmuting his experiences and those of others into a scientific humanism, with plenty of room for doubt. Larry is a Wy'east worship associate and grade 6+ RE teacher.

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 11 INTERGENERATIONAL FLOWER COMMUNION

Flower communion is one of the most popular Unitarian Universalist rituals. Today, we'll celebrate Mother's Day, flowers, and the uniqueness of each of us. This intergenerational service will also feature a Child Dedication. Please let Rev. Marcia know if your family would like to participate.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K–8th Grade): Families will be together for this multigenerational service, so there will be no RE. Nursery care is 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.

May 18 JUSTICE THAT REBUILDS LIVES

Service by Partnership for Safety and Justice Deputy Director, **Shannon Wight**. "Too often our criminal justice system leaves both the person that committed a crime and the victim without the tools they need to rebuild their lives. Our communities are safer and healthier when everyone impacted by crime and violence is supported back to successful living."

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 25 LOVE BEYOND BELIEF.

Rev. Dr. Thandeka, a Unitarian Universalist theologian, writes about the links between neuroscience and religion. Come explore these ideas, which were discussed at the District Assembly in Spokane. 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.

June 1 IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Paul Schroeder, the Executive director of the New City Initiative will be speaking to us today. His group sponsors the Village Support Network, which Wy'east participates in, whereby a team of volunteers supports a family as they transition from homelessness into housing.

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 8 STORIES FROM WALDEN POND

One of our most beloved Unitarian forbearers, Henry David Thoreau, walked into the woods because, “I wished to live deliberately.” He picked a beautiful place—Walden Pond. What do beautiful places have to teach us, and how do our reactions to them tell us about ourselves? 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.

June 15 GAY PRIDE PARADE SUNDAY

On this day, as Wy'east has done for the last three 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), or at least wear yellow.

June 22 A DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN EXPERIENCE

Emanuel Price, the Executive Director of Second Chances Are For Everyone, will speak about his experience of prison, and the work he now does with returnees through the organization he founded. “He is a God of Second Chances. As God forgives us with a loving heart, we must also forgive everyone with a loving heart.”

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 29 RECENT LESSONS FROM BEING ALIVE

As he did a year ago at this time, Wy'east member **Mark Alter** will share his current learning from his walk on this planet. And as before, there will be pauses in this service for you to reflect on what's true in your life. Global warming and love will no doubt be presented again, but expect some surprise appearances as well, perhaps by greed, good cops, and unions.

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.