



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

November/December 2016

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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 when I mentioned “my” famous chicken curry in a sermon, I thought I saw hungry looks on several faces. Here's the recipe:

2 large onions, sliced thin
2-3 cloves garlic, minced
juice of one lemon
1-2 Tbs. curry powder (hot or mild)
1 tsp. salt
1-2 dried hot chilies, or to taste
2 tsp. honey, or to taste
1 frying chicken, cut up

Make a bed of sliced onions in a large pot, put the chicken pieces on top, add minced garlic. Cover, and turn heat to medium. After some time, the pot will begin to fill with juices.

(Continued on page 2)

SUNDAY SERMONS

11/6	Butterflies and Radios	Rev. Craig Moro
11/13	Living and Leading Mindfully	Fariborz Pakseresht
11/20	The Shirt Off Your Back	Rev. Craig Moro
11/27	Breaking Bread	Wy'east Members
12/4	The Grinch Returns	Rev. Craig Moro
12/11	A Home for Everyone	Marc Jolin
12/18	Celebration of Light	Wy'east Children
12/24	Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Intergenerational Service	Wy'east Members
12/25	Christmas Presence—The Simplest of Gifts	Wy'east Members

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

Written Offerings

(Continued from page 1) Mix lemon juice with salt and curry powder; add to pot, stirring to distribute. Add chilies, if desired. (Crushing chilies will increase their potency—if left whole, they can be removed later.) As juice increases, add honey and stir. Cook over low to medium heat for one hour or more—it tastes best when the meat is beginning to fall off of the bone. Adjust salt as desired. Serve with rice, pita bread, or both. Enjoy!

I learned the basic method for making this curry (special in the way it uses no added oil or water) from my friend Zia. He got it from his mother, and she from hers. It is a family tradition that only survived due to an extraordinary act of kindness. Zia's Muslim family was fleeing India for Pakistan during the great Partition. The train was stopped by a mob seeking to massacre the refugees on board. The family managed to escape and find shelter with a compassionate Hindu family, who hid them for weeks in the walls of their house before finally helping them to cross the border. This might remind you of the story of Anne Frank's family during World War II, although it ends more happily. Such stories of common humanity are good to share in a world where we still tear ourselves apart over questions of identity—ethnic, religious, and political—rather than rejoicing in the different “flavors” we bring to the common table. I hope that you find this story as nourishing as the curry it made possible.

Wishing you a happy holiday season, filled with feasts 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. most days, except in an emergency.]

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is Dec. 15th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book reviews, favorite spiritual practices to: weast-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://weastuu.org/newsletter/>

UU History Class: Long Strange Trip

At Rose City Park Presbyterian Church
Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m.
November 5, 19, and December 3

We'll continue to watch and discuss this fine 6-film series by researcher and interviewer, Ron Cordes. “Long Strange Trip” takes us through 2000 years of Unitarian and Universalist history, with visits to historic sites, interviews, and a clear presentation of the key persons and documents underlying our present day religious movement.

This will be a great opportunity for both newer and long-time members of Wy'east as we get to know more about the key ingredients of our unique UU “soup.”

Contacting RE & the Board of Trustees

Contact the Religious Education Committee Chair if you have questions about our children's programming at Wy'east: weast-re@googlegroups.com.

If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to weast-board@googlegroups.com or talk to any board member on Sundays at church.

UPCOMING WY'EAST BOARD MEETINGS:

- Tuesday, November 15th, 7-8:30 p.m. at RCPP
- Tuesday, December 20th, 7-8:30 p.m. at RCPP

The Wy'east board now meets at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church (RCPP), 1907 NE 45th Ave. We won't always know in advance which room. We may have to post someone at the side door to let people in. Any Wy'east member who wishes to attend a board meeting should come to the North side door (top of ramp under the awning) by 7 p.m. If you let a board member know you are coming we can watch for you.

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.

Special Collections for November and December



November: HACIENDA

Hacienda CDC is a Latino Community Development Corporation that strengthens families by providing affordable housing, homeownership support, economic advancement and educational opportunities. Since 1992, we've built housing communities on four vacant lots and one run-down apartment complex in the Cully neighborhood, creating 325 units of community-centered, affordable rental housing. Our Camino a Casa program prepares prospective homebuyers for homeownership: clients work closely with counselors throughout the home-buying process, homebuyers can apply to various programs for down-payment assistance, and Hacienda also offers mortgage-readiness and financial fitness workshops. We've expanded by embracing a holistic approach with programs in community economic development, plus youth and family support services. We have grown to become Oregon's largest Latino-led, Latino-serving organization and remain a trusted name in the Latino population.

<http://www.haciendacdc.org>

December: THE WY'EAST VILLAGE SUPPORT NETWORK TEAM

This is the fourth year that Wy'east has had a team participate in the Village Support



Network program run by the New City Initiative. We are one of about forty teams from various Portland churches and community organizations. Each team takes responsibility for helping a family that has been homeless and recently assigned to an apartment, usually with a rent subsidy for a few months. It is our team's job to provide moral support and encouragement to the family as they try to settle into their new environment, although we get involved in many other practical aspects of their lives as well. One of the requirements of participating in this program is that we must provide \$500 to buy things that the family cannot buy on their very limited income. It is not used for housing, food, or essential bills. We use this to help them get extra things that children need, such as sports equipment, art supplies, club memberships, team uniforms, and hair cuts. Our family this year is a single mother named Melissa with two little girls.

<http://www.newcityinitiative.net>

Celebration of Light

Wy'east's annual winter pageant of holidays from religious traditions around the world will be taking place during worship on December 18th. The children will act out scenes in stories from Native American, Hindu, Jewish, Pagan, Christian, Thai, Chinese and African-American traditions.

Rehearsal for the celebration of light will be after worship on December 11th, at about noon. Food will be provided; please tell Anders about any dietary restrictions so we can provide food that everyone can eat. Rehearsal may take up to 2 hours. Any adults interested in helping with the celebration are welcome to assist; we will need several extra adults to help direct some of the holidays. People are welcome to stay and watch the rehearsal, but we will be reciting lines and processing back and forth throughout the Senior Center, trying to hear cues from across the room.

Rehearsal: December 11th, 12:00 noon

Celebration of Light: December 18th, 10:30 a.m.

Three Year's Work of the Wy'east Village Support Network Team

Wy'east has fielded a team to work with the Village Support Network for three years now. Our team of five to seven people agrees to work with a formerly homeless family for 6 months after they move out of shelter and into an apartment. Our job is to provide friendship, encouragement, and help in getting connected to their new neighborhood. The goal is to support these fragile families and keep them from falling back into homelessness. Typically, they have lived through traumatic experiences, have very little income, and suffer frayed connections with whatever family ties they still have.

The first year, we met "Sabrina" with her grade school and toddler boys while they were staying at the Goose Hollow Shelter. She was a pretty woman, seven months pregnant with her third child, a happy smile, and a lot of back pain. Shortly, she moved into a two bedroom apartment close to Gresham. Members of the Wy'east congregation pitched in to supply the things Sabrina needed to get started: sheets, towels, shelves for the kitchen, curtains, paper goods, shower curtain, bath mat, pots and pans. The team also helped her get a driver's license, a car registered, and deal with some past vehicle fines. The car kept breaking down, however, so we had a garage sale to pay for repairs.

Sadly, she had a difficult birth and the infant boy was very damaged and died at three months. The grief hit Sabrina hard, but Wy'east had a memorial service for her son, and we helped her a lot at Thanksgiving and Christmas to have a tree and gifts for the boys. A couple of months later she got a job as a restaurant hostess, which she worked at for a year. Sabrina had many personal assets: being cheerful, having good communication skills, and keeping herself very neat and clean. But she had economic challenges: not having enough money to cover her bills, the job being far from home, her car being unreliable.

We grew to love Sabrina, and we are still in touch with her. She is still in her apartment and working to get some kind of job training so she can better support her children.

The second year's family was an African American, lesbian couple, "Bea" and "Liz" and their two girls, ages 10 and 12. When we met them, they were living in an absolutely empty apartment, eating on the floor off paper plates. We got them some furniture from the Community Warehouse, made curtains, and bought shelves. The

parents also had health problems, though no car, and had to go everywhere by bus. Yet they were easy to be around, beautiful people, and put a high priority on their children's education. With their encouragement, both of their children were doing well in school. The parents were good at budgeting and meal preparation, but each struggled with weight problems. We helped them buy memberships in a local gym.

Then a surprise came along. A woman who had been a foster child living with them when they were growing up fell prey to drug addiction. This couple agreed to take in her two children, ages 3 and 15, to live with them in their small, two bedroom apartment. We were so impressed with their generosity and how well they made that situation work. It was always so much fun to go and sit around in their apartment and talk to them, because in spite of their challenges, they were always cheerful, upbeat, and wonderful parents. They did a training film for the Village Support Network staff.

Our third family, "Alice" and "Dave," was a married couple with two girls, ages 3 and 4. Dave was clearly very good with the children. Alice was looking for work, because their rent subsidy would run out in six months. She applied to be a bus driver and needed to take a battery of tests to get her commercial driver's license. One of our team members helped her prepare for the exams and encouraged Alice to take them early so she could retake them if she failed the first time. Sure enough, she failed one out of the three but passed it on the second try. Alice did get all her paper work done and was hired, but got sick and missed too many days in her first month, so was laid off. She was heartbroken about losing that job and stayed in bed for a week. However, Alice later got another bus driving job, which she still has. She's gone from home long hours, but Dave seems to be making it as a stay at home Dad.

These are the families we have had the privilege of getting to know and work with so far. With all of them, we've been very proud of their determination in the face of all their setbacks. It's been a rare opportunity to see these parents coping with the baggage left over from past traumas, the grinding poverty of surviving on tiny incomes, and the everyday responsibilities of caring for their children. In spite of having tragic events in their pasts, we've been struck by how dedicated they are in caring for and keeping their kids with them in spite of facing tremendous challenges. It has been a huge and at times stressful learning experience for our team members. Having a chance to help ease the burdens a little has been very gratifying for us.

~Barbara R.

Before & After Worship

Programming in November & December

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

November 6

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

November 13

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

November 20

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m. **Social Hour will end at noon, as we will need to clear the space for the annual Thanksgiving luncheon which Wy'east hosts for the seniors at the Hollywood Senior Center.*
- **Seniors' Group** • 12:00 noon

November 27

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.



December 4

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

December 11

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

December 18

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

December 25

- **Community Presence** • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Potlucks



Our potlucks are now held on the first Sunday — that's November 6th and December 4th. Bring a dish to share.

The **SENIORS' GROUP** at Wy'east is very much a going concern and meets after the service on the third Sunday of every month at the home of Barbara R., close by the Senior Center. 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 2nd 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.

November 6 BUTTERFLIES AND RADIOS

We pledge in our fourth UU principle to *affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning*. A “free” search sounds inviting, but what about that “responsible” part? Let’s search for it together in the sands by the Bay of Bengal. Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

(This sermon is the second part of a series that concludes on Nov. 20.)

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.

November 13 LIVING AND LEADING MINDFULLY

Fariborz Pakseresht, the Director of the Oregon Youth Authority, will speak on five leadership elements he uses in his work: the power of impression, understanding the difference between power and force, the illusion of control, the power of love, and the necessity of purpose. He’ll be available during the social hour after the service to discuss these further if you so choose.

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.

November 20 THE SHIRT OFF YOUR BACK

In this Thanksgiving sermon, a young man wearing a worn, thin shirt meets a group of worn, thin men on a beach during a food shortage—and learns a few things about *gratitude*. 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. Social Hour will end at noon, as we will need to clear the space for the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon which Wy’east hosts for the seniors at the Hollywood Senior Center.

November 27 BREAKING BREAD

Each autumn, we pause to give thanks for the food we gather from the earth. In this service, we’ll hear stories from four of our members about a loaf of bread, how the bread connects to their personal history, and the meaning it holds for them. Then, during social hour, they’ll share these loaves with all of us.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th Grade): Children will stay for this multigenerational service, so there will be no RE. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

December 4 THE GRINCH RETURNS

A meditation on the classic tale by Dr. Seuss. “The Grinch hated Christmas, the whole Christmas season!” Why is such a happy time so difficult for the Grinch? Let’s squeeze into a heart that is two sizes too small and hear what makes it tick. Then let’s watch and see how it grows! 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.

December 11 A HOME FOR EVERYONE

Marc Jolin has been a legal services attorney; the director of JOIN, a local street outreach organization; and is now the Director of A Home for Everyone and the newly created City-County Joint Office of Homeless Services. He’ll speak on why so many people are un-housed in the Portland area; what is being done by local government, non-profits, and faith communities to address the crisis; and ways that we can help at both the direct service and policy levels.

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.

December 18 CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

Our children will once again be presenting the Winter Pageant, which features them in adorable costumes acting out the solstice stories of eight different religious traditions. This Wy’east creation celebrates how we all find meaning in the darkness of winter, no matter which stories are told and which holidays we observe.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th Grade): Children will stay for this multigenerational service, so there will be no RE. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 p.m. INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE

We’ll sing carols that remind us of childhood, hear stories that touch us, and end with our traditional candlelight Silent Night.

December 25 CHRISTMAS PRESENCE—THE SIMPLEST OF GIFTS

No regular service today, but Wy’east will not be “closed for the holiday.” We’ll have the building open and ready to receive those who want to be someplace bigger than home but smaller than the world out there on Christmas morning. Bring some food, some stories, or just bring yourself. You can even wear your pajamas as we open our *presence* together.

Gathering: 10:30 a.m.