



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

November/December 2015

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*Wy'east meets at the
Hollywood Senior Center
(HSC) at 1820 NE 40th,
Portland, Oregon.*

*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 Board

GOLDEN LEAVES ARE GRACING THE TREES OF LATE, cool mornings grow into warm afternoons – all signs of the seasons transiting from long summer days through fall, to the steady rhythm of winter. This is a time of transition for our Wy'east Congregation as well, as we have a range of questions and challenges before us.

The most obvious of these is our search for a new minister. For now, we are blessed to have two excellent ministers to service our pulpit needs twice a month – once each by Reverend Barbara Stevens and Reverend Mark Gallagher, with Reverend Stevens also providing Pastoral Care.

The search for a minister in turn brings many open questions about who we are as a congregation – what do we want, what do we need, what is our long-term vision?

Addressing these questions, the Ministerial Search Committee has been quite active, gathering information from the three Focus Groups it has held, along with the responses from its comprehensive on-line survey. It now has a good characterization of “who we are” as a congregation. With that, it has created a ministerial search packet and posted the position through the UUA, for which there has been a strong response! The position will remain posted through 15 November, after which the next step of the search will begin.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

11/1	Memoir-Samhain, All Souls, Day of the Dead	Amy Beltaine
11/8	As the Harvest Begins	Rev. Barbara Stevens
11/15	Talking Religion with Family and Friends	Rev. Mark Gallagher
11/22	Breaking Bread	
11/29	Kids' Play for Social Change	Asia Wisecarver Payton
12/6	On Receiving Gifts	Rev. Barbara Stevens
12/13	Jesus Was a Lefty Liberal	Rev. Mark Gallagher
12/20	Celebration of Light	
12/24	Christmas Eve 5pm Intergenerational Service	Rev. Barbara Stevens
12/27	New Year Hymn Sing	

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

From the Board *(Continued from page 1)*

As summer has been turning to fall, we have been seeing many new faces on Sunday mornings. Welcome all! Addressing the needs of our growing congregation, Wy'east will be hosting a "Path to Membership" class, lead by Reverend Sarah Schurr in November. (Reverend Schurr was a founding member of the Wy'east UU Congregation, and has been very supportive of our church and its needs over the years.) If you are interested in membership, or know of someone who is, please contact a member of the Engagement Committee or the Wy'east Board (wyeast-board@googlegroups.com).

The giving of thanks need not be limited to the end of November – our congregation is moving forward, in no small part due to the efforts of many. There are the individuals who create our worship space each Sunday, those who share music, food, stories, and teaching; there are those who work in groups and behind the scenes, in areas of social justice, family support, congregational engagement, worship, and of course ministerial search – all this bespeaks of a great richness amongst ourselves, and the greater community to which we belong. The Board recognizes and appreciates this "spirit of life" – the individual and collective efforts of our congregation – as we move through this time of change, through fall and winter, into the light of the new year...

In community,

Paul Henerlau

Board Member

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is December 17th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book reviews, favorite spiritual practices 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>

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!

Please let the Worship Associate know if you have something to be presented to the congregation – a brief announcement will be made at the beginning of the service.

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 Paul H., Paul S., Mark A., Amy O., or Larry B.

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

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.

Wy'east Traditions

Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

On **November 22nd**, Wy'east UU and the Hollywood Senior Center will once again cohost our annual **Thanksgiving Luncheon** for fifty seniors from the HSC. Everyone contributes something to this meal. Amber from the HSC gets turkeys and ham and other things donated, and around thirty members of Wy'east make side dishes, pies, and all the fixins. The luncheon runs from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm. If you have something to bring, Mark A. and Kathy C. are the coordinators and would love to hear from you.

Bread Service

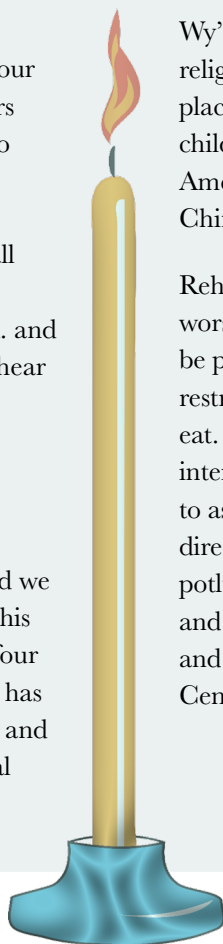
Each autumn, we pause to give thanks for the food we gather from the earth. On **November 22nd**, in this intergenerational service, we'll hear a story from four of our members about the bread each has baked, has in hand, how it connects to their personal history, and the meaning it holds for them. Then, during social hour, they'll share these loaves with all of us.

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 20th**. 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 13, 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. We will be displacing the potluck to the third week. 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 13, 12:00 noon
Celebration of Light: December 20, 10:30 am
Potluck: December 20, **not** December 13.



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.

The Wy'east Board generally meets on the second Thursday of the Month. Our next two meetings are on November 12th and December 10th at 6:30 pm. Both meetings will be 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 an email to wyeast-board@googlegroups.com. Someone will get back to you with the location. Or, you can ask any board member at a Sunday service.

Path to Membership

Are you or someone you know interested in learning about Wy'east and Unitarian Universalism? Sarah Schurr of the West Hills UU Fellowship will be leading a Path to Membership Class for us this fall. No pressure, just information for visitors, prospective new members, or even regular members who would like a refresher. Please see Diane I. if you are interested or sign up on the list on the back table.

Wy'east New Additions

Wy'east hosted a baby celebration for two growing Wy'east families on October 25th. Anders and Katy recently adopted a baby boy, Orson; Alex and Ben adopted a baby girl named Parker. We look forward to watching these babies grow up with Wy'east!

Special Collections for November and December

November: **P:EAR (PROJECT: EDUCATION, ARTS, RECREATION)**

From the website:

p:ear builds positive relationships with homeless and transitional youth through education, art and recreation to affirm personal worth and create more meaningful and healthier lives. Each year our programs serve almost 900 homeless and transitional young people ages 15 to 24.



To truly exit homelessness, kids must develop the internal strength, skills and foresight to make healthy choices. p:ear provides a safe, non-judgmental environment in which youth are trusted to outgrow unproductive and harmful behaviors. We offer individualized mentoring and education programs in a safe, reliable setting designed to foster trust, build self-esteem and to teach homeless and transitional kids – who all too often are regarded by society as disposable, ‘hopeless cases’ – that they are valuable individuals with a future who have something vital to contribute to this community.

p:ear staff and volunteers serve as mentors, friends, and role models, while p:ear’s unique programs create opportunities for young people to grow intellectually, express themselves constructively, communicate in positive ways and engage in meaningful interactions with the larger community of Portland. This is not work that can be accomplished in the short-term. These are relationships based on trust that take years to cultivate and require enormous dedication to sustain.

We are committed to being there for p:ear youth over the long-haul to share failures and successes, mundane events as well as life-altering milestones.”

In addition, please check out a list of needed art supplies on the p:ear website <http://pearmentor.org/needs>. We will be collecting any of these you can contribute at Wy’east through the month of November. Plus, there was a specific request to us for socks. <http://pearmentor.org>

December: **THE WY’EAST VILLAGE SUPPORT NETWORK TEAM**



During the past three years Wy’east has worked with New City Initiative’s

Village Support Network to assist 2 families who were settling in to apartments and new neighborhoods after being homeless for a period of time. The latest Wy’east team has just met with our newest family, and we will be working with them to get their apartment in shape and to support them as best we can as they work on their goals during the next 6 months. Our first project with the family is to help them get some shelving and then help them get all their belongings in order.

Our family is AJ, Cassie and their 2 young daughters, Sandy and Betty. Sandy, the older girl, goes to Head Start 4 days a week. Betty is a bright and cheerful 18 month old. Cassie is hoping to get a job working for TriMet servicing vehicles. AJ grew up in Estacada and misses living in a quiet, rural area. The team this time is Barbara D., Barbara R., Carol, Chad, Diane, Larry, and Linda F.

Each time we work with a family we have the responsibility to set up a Family Fund of \$500 to use toward special projects or needs the family may have. In the past this fund was used for tickets to OMSI, membership at a community center, clothing for sports teams, car repairs, fees for GED tests or school registration and other things which helped the family move toward their goals or nurtured a special interest of one of the children. The special collection in December will go toward helping this family. Your contributions will give us more flexibility in meeting their unique needs and helping them move forward in a healthy way.

This work with families who have been in crisis and who are determined to build a stable life for themselves and their children is both rewarding and eye-opening. This program gives caring people from our congregation a chance to make a difference in the lives of families who have been through the trauma of homelessness. We are grateful for the chance to be involved.

www.newcityinitiative.net/initiatives/village-support-network

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in November & December

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

November 1

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

November 8

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

November 15

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

November 22

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

November 29

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

We have a little basket to collect money for the weekly Social Hour snacks. The plan is to have the basket out on the snack table every week except for potluck Sundays. If you have questions, please talk to Debra T. or Linda B.

December 6

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

December 13

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am (no potluck)
- **Celebration of Light rehearsal** • 12:00 noon

December 20

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

December 27

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

Sunday Potlucks

Our potlucks will be held on **November 8th** and **December 20th**. Bring a dish to share.



POETRY GROUP FOR NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER

In November the poetry group will meet on the **fifth Sunday** due to the Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors on the fourth Sunday. The poetry group will meet on its regularly scheduled **fourth Sunday** in December. Anyone who enjoys either writing or reading poetry is welcome. Just bring six copies of your own work, or six copies of a published poet you'd like to discuss among poetry lovers who seek to explore, discover, and understand truths others bring to the surface of the page. **All are welcome!** Contact Lynn T. if you have questions.

SENIORS GROUP

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. There will be no Seniors Group meeting in either November or December, but the group will reconvene on January 17th.

November 1 MEMOIR-SAMHAIN, ALL SOULS, DAY OF THE DEAD

This time of year the veil between the living and mystery is thin. Memory can lighten the burden of grief, create meaning, or segue to the next chapter. What is your memoir? What is your story? Service by **Amy Beltaine**.

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.

November 8 AS THE HARVEST BEGINS

Harvest is a time of hope, moving on, and change. It also heralds decay, as plants die and our garden prepares to winter over. As the garden changes, so do we, but for us, the change of growth may be difficult. How do we stay centered and calm as we journey through the growth, ripening, and changes of our lives? Service by **Rev. Barbara Stevens**.

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.

November 15 TALKING RELIGION WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

When the topic turns to religion, UU's often feel tongue-tied. As the season of holiday parties approaches, let's sharpen our religion-talk skills. Service by **Rev. Mark Gallagher**.

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.

November 22 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 – 8th 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.

November 29 KIDS' PLAY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Asia Wisecarver Payton will be speaking about her experience as Program Director of Playworks in Portland. Asia was drawn to Playworks because of the alignment of its mission and values and her personal values. It blends a love of sports and activities with her values of inspiring hope, creating positive environments in which youth thrive and being a part of an organization whose mission increases the overall health and well-being of our community.

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.

December 6 ON RECEIVING GIFTS

They say it is more blessed to give than to receive. Certainly, we often find it easier to give than to receive. When we give, our brains get a dopamine burst, we feel competent, good, fulfilled. If we need to receive, however, we may feel incompetent, unworthy, even ashamed. Perhaps we can reframe what it means to accept gifts and think of the act of receiving as being a gift in itself. Sermon by **Rev. Barbara Stevens**.

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.

December 13 JESUS WAS A LEFTY LIBERAL

To judge by his most vocal spokespersons, you'd think Jesus was a market-venerating, saber-rattling, empire-building patriotic champion of the traditional family. Nothing, as they say, could be further from the truth. Service by **Rev. Mark Gallagher**.

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.

December 20 CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

Our children will once again be presenting the Winter Pageant, which features them in adorable costumes acting out the stories behind the solstice holidays 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 – 8th Grade): Children will stay for this multigenerational service, so there will be no 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 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE

Tonight we will hear the traditional story of the Birth of Jesus. We'll sing carols that remind us of childhood, hear stories that touch us, and end with our traditional candlelit Silent Night. Service by **Rev. Barbara Stevens**.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

December 27 NEW YEAR HYMN SING

At this winter time awaiting the New Year, there is nothing so warm and cozy as a service where we sing hymns together, particularly those that bring us joy and hope for the days ahead. We will have some hymns picked out ourselves for sure, but you might also come with some favorites and requests.

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.