



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

September/October 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

September is an exciting time! For families that include students or teachers, September is back to school time. Students may be worried about who their teachers will be, if their friends will be in their classes, and how hard the work will be. Teachers may worry about how the class will jell together, and if they're prepared. But often, there is excitement mixed in with the nervous anticipation. I know my kids have varying attitudes towards school actually starting, but everyone is excited about something.

At Wy'east, September is also the beginning of a new church year. We celebrate Homecoming Sunday with Water Communion, and you are invited to bring some water that represents something you enjoyed this summer, whether that was a vacation, time spent with your kids in the pool, or nurturing your garden. We will gather together in an intergenerational service and celebrate the blessings of clean, available water. Childcare will be available for the youngest children.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

9/7	Workers' Rights Are Human Rights	Barbara Byrd
9/14	Water Communion	Rev. Marcia Stanard
9/21	Please Come Flying	Rev. Preston Moore
9/28	Belief Is Not The Price Of Admission	Rev. Marcia Stanard
10/5	Meditations on Death, an Unexpected Gift	Doug Lyons
10/12	The Morality of Star Trek	Rev. Marcia Stanard
10/19	Village Support Network Team – Personal Reflections	Wy'east VSN Team
10/26	Better Living Through Poetry	Rev. Marcia Stanard

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

From the Minister *(Continued)*

The Religious Education calendar also turns over in September, and this year brings many new faces to our program. Lana is leaving her job as our setup person and childcare provider to focus more on her business and on our young adult group. Ashley is leaving her position as our Director of Religious Education/Lead Teacher, because she's been working more than full time for several years now, and it's time for her to devote more time to her personal life and other projects. Both women will continue to be an active part of our Wy'east community, and we look forward to seeing them in worship!

We are pleased to report that we have hired two new people to fill these positions. Our new DRE is Kimberlee King who is a student at Portland State. She comes to us from Mt. Diablo UU Church in Walnut Creek, California where she has worked as a childcare assistant, childcare lead and substitute RE teacher. She has also been on the Youth Council for the Pacific Central District and held the RE portfolio for that group. Kimberlee will teach our youngest kids and coordinate our RE program.

Our new setup and childcare person is Willow Buswell. Willow currently practices as a Licensed Massage Therapist and works as a nanny & babysitter. She has been an occasional visitor to Eastrose UU Congregation, where a friend sings in the choir. Her references describe her as reliable, caring and creative in her approach to children.

In the midst of these new hires, we also need RE volunteers from the congregation. Alex is ready to move off of the committee that he has been chairing for three years now, and we need a few more teachers. We are looking for congregants who are interested in working with our kids two or three times a month, teaching our 3rd-6th graders, or our middle school kids, or helping out with childcare. We also need some folks who are willing to serve on the RE committee, which entails monthly meetings with the teachers, staff & minister, and helping to plan our RE curriculum. If you are interested in any of these positions, please talk to Alex or Marcia. Teaching our kids about Unitarian Universalism is one of the most meaningful ways in which you can explore and deepen your own faith. Come let your own light shine!

—*Rev. Marcia*

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., 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 wyeastboard@googlegroups.com or talk to any board member on Sundays at church.

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.

Special Collections for September and October

September: **SOLAR FORWARD**

Wy'east member Karl A. writes: "During my recent trip to Massachusetts, I saw solar panels on an old mill building that is now home to a restaurant. The sight of modern solar power on a 120 year-old stone building was impressive. It tells everyone driving by that this is what our future can look like. Most people have TVs. Most people have cell phones. Of course, in Portland, everyone recycles and even composts. And, of course, we need solar power. The more the better. The faster, the better. That brings us to our Special Collection...."



Solar Forward, created by the City of Portland, is Portland's first solar crowd-sourcing program. It offers you the chance to help fund

new, local renewable energy assets, reduce carbon pollution, put local people to work installing PV (photovoltaics) systems, and pave new ways for collectively powering our future with clean energy. Solar Forward is raising money from community members to match seed funding from the Oregon Community Foundation and launch Portland's first revolving solar fund. The first installation was at the Southwest Community Center. The next is slated for Lent Elementary School on SE 97th. And the third is planned for Hacienda CDC, a Latino community development corporation on NE Killingsworth.

October: **LENTS SPRINGWATER HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT**

In 1995, Ed Kerns had a vision to coordinate tree plantings for kids along the Springwater Corridor in the Lents Neighborhood where he grew up. So he began the Lents Springwater Habitat Restoration Project organizing and managing regular plantings. Native trees and



shrubs are planted along the Springwater Corridor – a 35 mile "Rails to Trails" Park that leads from downtown Portland up into the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. These plantings are done by volunteers from around Portland, but primarily by the kids of the Lents neighborhood – from schools such as Kelly and Lent Elementary, Lane Middle School, as well as Lents Boys and Girls Club and the Lents Little League. During the past 19 years this project has planted over 50,000 native trees and shrubs during 200 plantings with 5,000 local kids and 3,000 adults.

Wy'east Chooses Environmental Justice

The Wy'east Board has chosen Environmental Justice as the theme for our special collections and speakers for the the 2014-15 church year. This follows our tradition of focused generosity and awareness building.

Environmental Justice follows naturally on last year's theme of racism, because it represents the coming together of the Civil Rights Movement and the Environmental Movement, since it so often happens that people with minority racial status and low income bear an unfair portion of the burden of environmental challenges. For instance, this has been the case in siting inner-city heavy industries, waste facilities, and the use of pesticides in the presence of farm workers.

Recent decades have seen a formalization of more appropriate guidelines in the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Agriculture.

Wy'east will take a broad view of Environmental Justice: simply put, we are looking to support organizations and initiatives that directly benefit people as well as the environment. We want to give attention to both local issues and matters of global importance. If you know of organizations or individuals that might be right for Wy'east, please bring them to the attention of anyone on our task force working with this — Jon B., Karl A., Kathryn H., Mabel P., and Mark A.

We hope you will look forward to hearing Environmental Justice stories, supporting the causes, and reading our newsletter articles. With all of us in this together, Wy'east WILL make a difference.

— *Jon B.* and *Karl A.*

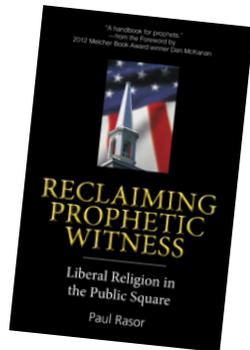
Announcing the 2014-2015 UUA Common Read

(From www.uua.org) **Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square** by Paul Rasor is the 2014-2015 UUA Common Read. In this inspiring call to action, Rasor dispels the myth that conservative Christianity is the only valid religious voice in national debates on social policy, and shows us that the powerful support of religious liberals may be more numerous than we realize.

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

Each year's Common Read is chosen by a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the UUA. Anyone may nominate a book. Read the criteria for Common Read selection and nominate a book for 2015-16 using the online form (<http://www.uua.org/re/multigenerational/read/index.shtml>).

The UUA Bookstore offers *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* at a bulk discount, when ordering five or more books. Also available as an ebook. <http://www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=3619>



Indigenous Peoples Day

(From www.uua.org) The Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to fully understand the legacy of Christopher Columbus, just as it calls us to respect and learn from indigenous peoples and support their struggles for social justice and religious freedom. Join Unitarian Universalists across the United States in honoring Indigenous Peoples Day.

History of the Holiday

“Indigenous Peoples Day” reimagines Columbus Day and changes a celebration of colonialism into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous peoples in the Americas, to organize against current injustices, and to celebrate indigenous resistance.

The idea of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day was born in 1977, at a U.N.-sponsored conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on discrimination against indigenous populations in the Americas. Fourteen years later, activists in Berkeley, CA, convinced the Berkeley City Council to declare October 12 a “Day of Solidarity with Indigenous People.” Henceforth, there has been a growing movement to appropriate “Columbus Day” as “Indigenous Peoples Day.”

States such as Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, and South Dakota do not celebrate Columbus Day, and more cities have taken similar action.

Indigenous Peoples Day is Monday, October 13th.

From the Board

The Wy’east Board recently had a retreat at the Bread and Ink Restaurant.

We basically talked about these “big ideas”:

- Definition of Wy’east Board’s role
- Wy’east Mission Statement
- Diversity in our Congregation
- Social Justice Involvement
- Three Year Plan
- Engagement Committee (Fun Committee)

Ask any board member for more information about any of these topics. Anyone is welcome at our monthly board meetings, usually held on the second Sunday at 4pm. Your current board members are:

- Marcia Stanard, non-voting member
- Barbara Smith Thomas
- Nancy Drury
- Diane Ingle
- D’on Voelzke, Treasurer
- Robyn Klopp, Board Moderator

Newsletter News

The Wy’east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the September/October issue submissions is Thursday, October 16th. 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>

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in September & October

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

September 7

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

September 14

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

September 21

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

September 28

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



October 5

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

October 12

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

October 19

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

October 26

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

Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks will be held on **September 14th** and **October 12th**. Bring a dish to share.



THE WY'EAST POETRY GROUP will meet



September 28th after the worship service and will continue to meet every 4th Sunday throughout the year.

New Wy'east member, Lynn T. will be our new coordinator/facilitator, replacing Mabel P. Lynn is founder of the Poetry group at First Unitarian Church. We are happily looking forward to her expertise.

Anyone interested in sharing your own poetry or that of another is welcome to our monthly gathering. We welcome the sharing of short prose as well.

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!**



September

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

September 7 **WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**

Barbara Byrd, Secretary-Treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO and a member of the teachers' union, will speak on the strong connections between faith and labor issues, focusing on current worker struggles in Oregon.

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.

September 14 **WATER COMMUNION**

This service is our annual ingathering as we start the beginning of the new church year. Please bring a small amount of water that represents water that was important to you this summer. Somewhere you traveled, or the water from your backyard. Join us for this annual service that celebrates the blessings of clean and safe water! 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.

September 21 **PLEASE COME FLYING**

Please Come Flying—to a worship service about parenting and the village it takes. Through poetry, music, and stories ranging from antiquity to modernity, we will explore this important part of what it means to be a spiritual community. **Rev. Preston Moore** was a trial lawyer for twenty-five years before he finally took the off ramp and headed to seminary. He has been eyebrow-deep in religion ever since.

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.

September 28 **BELIEF IS NOT THE PRICE OF ADMISSION**

I had a great conversation with a Buddhist the other day. He described his community with the above phrase, which resonated with me. What else do we have in common with the Buddhists, and what is the “price of admission” to a Unitarian Universalist Community? 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.

October 5 **MEDITATIONS ON DEATH, AN UNEXPECTED GIFT**

“My hope in this endeavor is to share in some meaningful way, how the initial shock of my diagnosis of a rare lung cancer and the subsequent surgery, recovery and continued need for surveillance has reshaped my priorities as well as my mind and my heart.” **Doug Lyons** and his family are Wy’east members.

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.

October 12 **THE MORALITY OF STAR TREK**

Humanist Gene Roddenberry created a deeply moral society in the world of Star Trek. 45 years later, and amidst the dystopian world-views that characterize much of young adult literature today, what pearls of wisdom does the series still hold? 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.

October 19 **VILLAGE SUPPORT NETWORK TEAM – PERSONAL REFLECTIONS**

Members of the Wy’east VSN Team from June, 2013 to January, 2014 will share what we learned in the course of deeply meaningful work with getting a family newly housed after a period of homelessness. We will give you a glimpse of the courage it took to care for a family in the face of grinding poverty, plus the frustrations and sometimes hidden grace of our tattered social safety net that were gradually but clearly revealed to us.

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.

October 26 **BETTER LIVING THROUGH POETRY**

“It is difficult/to get the news from poems/yet men die miserably every day/for lack/of what is found there” wrote the great American poet William Carlos Williams. Today’s service will look at what can be gained from poetry in particular, and the arts in general. 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.