



The Wy'east Beacon

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Whoever you are,
Wherever you come from
You are welcome here

Wy'east [*Wy'east' : Ancient name for Mount Hood*] WWW.WYEASTUU.ORG

September/October 2011

From the Minister...

What's Inside?

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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!*

During a half-day retreat this summer, the worship committee came up with a vision statement of what we wish to create in worship.

“We want to create a welcoming place where people can relax into a safe, warm space where they can be refreshed, renewed, inspired, and challenged to build loving community, discover and engage with their faith, and live out their values in the world.”

We had a rich discussion of what that meant for our members, our friends, and our visitors, and how that could be embodied in the service. One of the things we discussed was Joys and Sorrows. What is the goal of this part of the service? How is this practice meeting this goal? Are there other practices that could meet this goal as well, or better, than our current one?

One of the things we discussed was that what we do now obviously works better for some people than others. Extroverts who are comfortable in our community often enjoy this ritual. Other people never get up and share. How are we meeting their need to uphold loved ones in community, or to have a private moment of ritual?

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

9/4	A Latina Looks at Labor Day	Mary Mendez
9/11	Homecoming Sunday and Water Communion	Marcia Stanard
9/8	Resisting Fear	Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons
9/25	A Prayer For The Wild Soul	Marcia Stanard
10/2	To Do Justly, and to Love Mercy, and to Walk Humbly	Joyce Liljeholm
10/9	The Hunger To Belong	Marcia Stanard
10/16	Confessions Of A Country Bumpkin	Raz Mason
10/23	Not Having all the Answers	Marcia Stanard
10/30	Samhain Celebration	Katy Liljeholm

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

From the Minister *(continued)*

As a result of this conversation, we have decided to expand Joys and Sorrows a bit. First, beginning in mid-September, we will have a space dedicated for individuals to light candles before the service, with a greater degree of privacy. This is a chance for people to light a candle of concern for a friend or family member, to offer thanks for a moment of joy, or in support of a personally meaningful cause. We will have a white board available if you wish to note what your candle is for, and others are encouraged to hold those people in prayer or good thoughts as well. We will encourage people to do this in lieu of some of the current Joys and Sorrows candles, and also offer it as a way to light a candle for those who don't wish to go up on stage.

Another option we will offer is that on the Sundays when Marcia is preaching, she will offer a pastoral prayer that incorporates a space for people to speak aloud the name of a person, or a concern (for example, employment) that they would like held up by the congregation. This will be a good choice for people who wish their concern or their loved one supported by public, community prayer and good wishes.

On the Sundays when Marcia isn't preaching, our usual practice of Joys and Sorrows will remain. We do encourage people to be judicious in their sharing, simply because congregants, and especially visitors, can experience overload when too many people rise to light candles. As a general rule, we ask that individuals share less than once a month, and that these public

candles are reserved for major events. We are hopeful that with our new rituals, people's needs for ritual and sharing can be met in other ways as well.

Warmly,
Marcia



Marcia's ministerial committee is up and running! Katy L., Carol B. and Bruce M. welcome your comments, concerns or compliments about Marcia and the job she's doing as our minister.

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.wyecastuu.org/contact

or

groups.google.com/group/wyecast

and

groups.google.com/group/wyecast-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 Betty 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 may 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 wyecast-worship@googlegroups.com or talk to Mark A., Brooke C., Katy L., Amy O., or Marcia S.

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

Wy'east Special Collections

OUR THEME FOR THE YEAR

Each year for the past several years, Wy'east has had a theme for our monthly Special Collections, going to support the efforts of mostly local organizations doing good work. This past year, in line with one part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's campaign called Standing on the Side of Love, we donated to Portland and Oregon groups working with immigrants and refugees. This year, in honor of a second part of that same campaign, we are going to donate to groups supporting the LGBTQ community (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning).

What that will look like is that on the third Sunday of most months this year, we will not only be raising funds for LGBTQ organizations, but inviting someone from those groups to present their programs to us for a few minutes during the services on those days. This is very much a win-win for the presenters and Wy'east, as they get to be acknowledged and we get to be educated.

In addition, as we did last year, Wy'east will continue to have a speaker on our theme every other month as well. This also works to deepen our understanding of the theme.

PORTLAND TWO SPIRIT SOCIETY



In **September**, our first Special Collection of 2011-2012 will be for Portland Two Spirit Society. From their website: "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) are a few terms that describe

sexuality and sometimes gender roles. Two Spirit is a term that describes both a traditional Native role as well as sexuality. Two Spirit is a term that many LGBTQI Natives claim as their own, as it encompasses the totality of who they are. Two Spirit is a term that recognizes an equal balance of male and female and doesn't define an individual as one or the other but fluid in both, thereby allowing a broader role in the Native community. Traditionally in many tribes, Two Spirits were the name givers, the historians, healers, leaders, etc., and they were allowed to live as everyone else."

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION'S NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SUNDAY



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION OF
CONGREGATIONS

In **October**, Wy'east will be participating in the Unitarian Universalist Association's National Association Sunday. From the UUA website: "We know that excellence in ministries is the cornerstone of successful congregations and a vibrant, growing Unitarian Universalism. This year, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) will partner with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA), the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network, the Liberal Religious Educators Association, and other professional organizations to celebrate Association Sunday and to raise funds for the future of our ministries. Donations to Association Sunday 2011 will support scholarships, continuing education, and a comprehensive assessment of our ministries and their needs for the future. Grants from Association Sunday 2011 funds will help religious professionals get ongoing training to support thriving congregations."



Oregon UU Voices for Justice

ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2011

Come and learn about issues affecting Oregon that will come before our state legislature in the 2012 session. Engage in dialogue about statewide issues that concern each of us and our congregations. We want your ideas and vision as we decide priorities for the coming year. Be part of a growing chorus of UUs who are courageously stepping forward so that our values of justice, equity and compassion ring out loudly in the public square.

Held from 10 am - 4 pm at the UU Congregation of Salem, 5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317. For more information contact Barbara Dow (bdowpdx@gmail.com) 503-385-1686 or Judy Zimmerman (jzimmerman15@yahoo.com) 503-324-9377.

Before & After Worship Programming in September & October

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

SEPTEMBER 4

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

SEPTEMBER 11

- **Potluck Brunch** • bring a dish to share right after the service.

SEPTEMBER 18

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

SEPTEMBER 25

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
 - **Congregational Forum** • following social hour
 - **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am
- Extended hours at the Hollywood Senior Center: Watch for new programming!*



OCTOBER 2

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

OCTOBER 9

- **Potluck Brunch** • bring a dish to share right after the service.

OCTOBER 16

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

OCTOBER 23

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
 - **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am
 - **New Member Class** • 12 pm
- Extended hours at the Hollywood Senior Center: Watch for new programming!*

OCTOBER 30

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **New Member Class** • 12 pm

UU Adventures in Eating

SUNDAY POTLUCK

Our potlucks will be held on **September 11th** at 11:30 am and **October 9th** at 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.



RESTAURANT ADVENTURE

After our service on the **fourth Sunday** of each month, those who are interested gather for lunch at a local restaurant. It is an opportunity for lively and topical conversation, and for enjoying the bounty of wonderful restaurant food available in Portland.

Our group varies in size from as few as four to as many as 15, and often includes both adults and children. We announce the month's destination during the service, gather a list of interested congregants, and then call ahead to make reservations.

We try to find places with a variety of moderately priced vegetarian and omnivorous menu items. We have some regular stops on the rotation, and we're always on the lookout for new restaurants to try.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bi-monthly. The deadline for the **November/December** issue submissions is **Thursday, October 20th**. Please put this date on your calendar, and 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. Thanks!

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>

From the RE Committee...



New Beginnings

As with so many exciting areas of Wy'east, one thing you can count in our Religious Education ("RE") program is change.

We've had lots of change just in the past few months. Liana A., our RE Committee Chair for two years, has stepped into her new position as our Board's Moderator. I'm now honored to fill the Chair role on the committee. We've also added two new members to our committee (thanks, Holly O. and Kate M!).

Also, we've learned that we're going to have to bid Rose T., one of our talented and enthusiastic RE teaching staff, good-bye for a while. She is going on an awesome adventure involving a good friend, a pickup truck with a popup camper canopy, driving around the country visiting friends, family, and beautiful places, and spending the winter someplace sunny. We hope to have her back in a year or two once she's had her fill of sun :-)

Between Rose's trip and Anne S., our childcare provider, graduating from college, we are looking for two staff members. Let me know if you know anybody who is interested in and qualified for caring for and/or teaching our kids!

Some things don't change though. Wy'Camp, our more fun and less-structured program we have run for years each summer, has again been a great success! The kids have had memorable and fun Sundays ranging from sushi making to paper airplane competitions. Thanks to the many Wy'easters who lent their creativity and time to work with the kids in Wy'Camp this summer!

Also, our school-year program will start in September as it always does. September 11, the Sunday after Labor

Day, will be the official kick-off date of our RE program year. I, Ashley M., Anders and Holly (who will be working with our older - though not old - children), and hopefully our two new staff members will be ready!

Finally, some change we mindfully create. The RE Committee is placing high emphasis on continuing to meet the needs of our older kids as they grow and change. Our dream is for our sizeable current crop of mostly-elementary-age kids to find tailored, engaging programs waiting for them all the way up through high school. Just think...in not too many years, we could have a thriving high-school youth group!

Alex R.

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 (David Tode O., Nancy D., Dan E., Hank H., and Liana A.) on Sundays at church.

MABON CELEBRATION

September 24th 3pm



Amy, Holly, and the O'Brien children would like to invite everyone to celebrate Mabon with them at their new home in Milwaukie (just south of Portland). Mabon is one of eight Pagan holidays and is the celebration of the beginning of the fall season. Arrive at three, and the children and family-friendly ritual will begin at 3:30, followed by a potluck meal. While this will be a kid friendly event you don't need a child to come! Please RSVP with any dietary restrictions as we have a little snack during the ritual: holly@amyandholly.com or 503-502-9051.

September 4 A LATINA LOOKS AT LABOR DAY

Labor activist **Mary Mendez**, of Enlace (en-lah-say), will talk about her life as an organizer, starting at age 17 in Mexico, when she worked with people in a small community that had no clean water. Mary and the community members got the government to put in 10 new wells for the town. Since then, she has organized in the apple industry in Washington, with garment workers, teachers, and seafood workers in Mexico. Mary is an inspiring teacher of younger organizers.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

September 11 HOMECOMING SUNDAY AND WATER COMMUNION

Our annual water communion service will happen this Sunday. Please bring a bit of water with you from anyplace that had meaning for you this summer. We will put it in a common bowl and remember that we are stronger together than individually. **Marcia Stanard**, our Consulting Minister, leads the service.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Wy'east Potluck Brunch: 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

September 18 RESISTING FEAR

Every day we face a growing epidemic of fear as public officials and media personalities scapegoat communities of color, LGBT, immigrants and refugees. How do we counter this fear and humanize those on the margins? How may our Unitarian Universalist traditions of resistance and liberation be a guide? Together let us bless our love of the "other". **Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons** is a local Unitarian Universalist minister and the Coordinator of APANO, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

September 25 A PRAYER FOR THE WILD SOUL

To pray, the poets often tell us, is simply to open ourselves up enough to let the wonder of the world be heard. Today, we will examine practices that can help us embody this spirit of prayer. **Marcia Stanard**, our Consulting Minister, leads the service.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service. **Congregational Forum** following the social hour.

Restaurant Adventure: 11:40 a.m. Location to be announced during social hour.

October 2 TO DO JUSTLY, AND TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBL Y

Joyce Liljeholm (yes, related to Anders Liljeholm) is a retired school counselor active in the United Church of Christ. She will share how her personal faith, her faith community, and her family have empowered her work for justice.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

October 9 THE HUNGER TO BELONG

Celtic Spirituality, according to John O'Donohue, teaches that the longing to belong is the most basic of human desires. What is this restlessness teaching us? **Marcia Stanard**, our Consulting Minister, leads the service.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Wy'east Potluck Brunch: 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

October 16 CONFESSIONS OF A COUNTRY BUMPKIN

What makes a meaningful life? Sometimes social messages about prestige and success get in our way of going after what really matters. **Raz Mason** will share reflections from her recent 4-month adventure as a long-haul truck driver, which brought the counter-cultural decision to move back to Eastern Oregon and reclaim the title of "country bumpkin." Raz is a candidate for UU ministry and is trained as a chaplain. She has master's degrees from Seattle University and Harvard Divinity School.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

October 23 NOT HAVING ALL THE ANSWERS

Unitarian Universalism is known as a religion where it's okay to have questions. Coming together each week, we sit with our not knowing. What are the gifts of this practice? **Marcia Stanard**, our Consulting Minister, leads the service.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Restaurant Adventure: 11:40 a.m. Location to be announced during social hour.

New Member Class: 12:00 p.m.

October 30 SAMHAIN CELEBRATION

Come celebrate Samhain, a Pagan holiday of transition and transformation, remembrance and contemplation.

Katy Liljeholm leads the service.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

New Member Class: 12:00 p.m.