

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 2011

What's Inside?

Special Collections

...Page 3...

From the Board

...Page 3...

From the RE Committee

...Page 4...

Before & After Worship

Programming

...Page 5...

*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!*

Sharing Our Joy

ON NOVEMBER 20TH, I WILL BE ORDAINED AS A MINISTER by First Unitarian Church of Portland, my home congregation during seminary, and the place I received my ministerial calling. Wy'east will also be an important part of this occasion, and will do the investiture, presenting me with my ministerial stole (designed and made by Barbara Smith-Thomas of this congregation.) Janine Larsen, the District Executive, will speak to both congregations as part of the ceremony.

But what does it really mean to be ordained? After all, I'm already your minister. What changes?

In some ways, nothing will be different. My contract remains the same, and my relationship with you won't change. But after ordination I'll officially be a Reverend. A friend and I parsed out the word the other day. According to the dictionary, it officially means "worthy of being revered," but I far prefer to think of it as "one who lives reverently, or embraces reverence."

In Unitarian Universalism, only the congregations are allowed to ordain ministers. But in actuality, the fellowshiping process is what makes a minister recognized by other congregations and colleagues. As a minister in Preliminary Fellowship, I've graduated from seminary with a Masters of Divinity, done an internship and a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, and passed a panel interview from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. Only then, could I ask a congregation to ordain me.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

11/6	Drum Circle	Paul Evans
11/13	The Silver-Lined Toilet	Marcia Stanard
11/20	Breaking Bread	Wy'east
11/27	Why Marriage Matters	Debbie and Brenda Dixon-Smith
12/4	The Pursuit of Happiness	Elaine Castles
12/11	Saying Yes	Marcia Stanard
12/18	Celebration of Light	Wy'east children
12/24	Christmas Eve Service at 5pm	Marcia Stanard

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

From the Minister...

From the Minister *(Continued)*

This is a joyful rite of passage for me. I'm hoping that most of you will be able to make it, and I'm pleased that colleagues of mine will be coming from throughout Oregon and Washington. I'll also have friends and family there, including a few I haven't seen since college.

This particular joyful event is very public, and I'm thrilled to be able to share it. I'm also aware that *each* of us have major events of joy or sorrow. The worship committee is hoping that by expanding our ways of sharing joys and sorrows, more people feel comfortable participating in this important ritual. I do want to remind folks that there are many different ways of sharing the joys and sorrows of our lives with our congregation. Our usual ritual of lighting candles during the service will remain 2 or 3 Sundays each month. We will also continue with the pastoral prayer ritual, inviting people to call a name into the circle, in the hopes that this will allow other people to be more comfortable having their concerns upheld as well.

The question was asked, "What if I have a really huge joy or sorrow, that can't wait, and it's not a week we do our regular joys and concerns?" What a great question! Let me know about it! First I want to know from a pastoral perspective, so I may be able to support or celebrate you as your minister. So, if you've just lost a spouse, or want to share an engagement or a frightening diagnosis, and need to make sure folks know about this all at once, please let me know and we'll announce it before the pastoral prayer, so we can all support or celebrate you!

We are an inclusive community and we care deeply about one another. We want to do this in a way that invites participation from all of our community. Blessed be, and Amen.

Warmly,
Marcia

MARCIA STANARD'S ORDINATION

November 20th, 6:00 pm — First Unitarian Church

Reception Following the Service

Wy'east will be providing dinner at 4:30 pm to out-of-town guests, clergy, and members of Wy'east who wish to attend. Please contact Tode at tode.wyeast@gmail.com if you're interested in helping out with this.

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 Betty H. or anyone on the Connections Committee.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bi-monthly. The deadline for the January/February issue submissions is Thursday, December 15th. 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.

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 Special Collections

NOVEMBER – ESTHER'S PANTRY



Esther's Pantry, a program of Our House, provides food and personal care items to low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. A vital community program, Esther's Pantry has served thousands of people over its 25 year history. Open to clients every Monday from noon to 4:00 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 to 6:30 pm, the pantry is unique in that it allows clients to select the food they want from well-stocked shelves, rather than being handed a pre-packed box of food.

DECEMBER – GAY AND GREY



Gay and Grey, a program of Friendly House, is working with and for GLBTQI elders 60+, creating community and social change. There are an estimated 10,000 GLBTQI elders in and around the Portland metropolitan area. Recent studies indicate that these seniors are more likely to live alone than heterosexual seniors and often lack adequate family support networks. The seniors gather, recreate, socialize, and learn about resources in a safe space, alongside sensitive, caring and aware staff and volunteers.

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 weast-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.

From the Board...

I OFTEN SAY TO PEOPLE, 'I LEFT LOS ANGELES TO LEARN ABOUT THE WEATHER.' As I step into my fourth Oregon winter I can say sincerely I'm a fan of changing seasons. I loved spending spring trying again to memorize the names of flowers. I loved spending summer running outside and into the woods, mountains, and swimming holes. I even loved being too hot to move from my place in front of the fan.

Wy'east's homecoming Water Communion service called me back indoors and back to the work of this board. In learning my seasons, I, like countless others before me, have learned to prepare for the coming winter, full of short days, long nights, cold toes. I have not been preparing alone. I've been working alongside all our board members to make sure we have a calendar full of events designed to keep me warm running around town.

We began our Extended Sundays at Wy'east on the fourth Sunday in October, with a second one on the calendar for November 13th. We'll keep the lights on and gather together to share food, warmth and company. It's a winter kinda thing. Also coming up in November will be the formal ordination of Marcia Stanard, our Minister, on November 20th. One week later Wy'east will continue our tradition of serving a meal of thanksgiving to the seniors of the Hollywood Senior Center, on November 27th.

Just as I know that winter does not end there, so too should you know that our opportunities for gathering together and celebrating do not end there either. I'm happy to say that due to the feedback from so many of you, who've come to me sharing your ideas on how we can continue to increase the quality and quantity of our time together (I'm hearing about sewing, singing, cooking, playing) – well, my list of December's activities would strain the boundaries of this column.

I look forward to your presence,

—*Liana A.*

Board Moderator

From the RE Committee...

Everything's good... time to make it better!

It feels like Wy'east is really entering a new phase, one where scarcity, though still present, is no longer our driving force. The vision of a better Wy'east is what pushes us forward now that the basics are met.

In the Religious Education ("RE") program, this shift has a few manifestations I'd like to tell you about. The basics are met in that we have marvelous regular teachers creating engaging weekly classes for our youngest to our oldest (many thanks to Johanna, Shayna, Ashley, Holly, and Anders!). As we continue to support our teachers and maintain the high standards of their classes, we're looking at new and exciting things Wy'east RE can do.

A cool idea Anders had was to take the "World Religions" curriculum we're loosely working from for our 4th grade+ kids "on the road." We're still deciding if we will pursue it this year, but wouldn't it be great for our older kids to attend another church, synagogue, Baha'i or Hindu temple, or mosque on occasion?

Another idea we're working on is crafting a tailored coming-of-age program for each kid at or approaching that time of life. In mid-October, Raz Mason told us at the pulpit about the emotional impact a wedding had on her, reminding us of the importance of rituals to mark big changes. Going from childhood to adolescence/adulthood is a big change. The RE committee is working on ways to give our kids something meaningful and memorable to celebrate this special time in their development.

If you have other ideas, or opinions or offers of help for these ideas, let the RE Committee know!

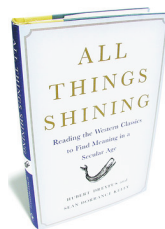
—Alex R.

Contacting RE & the Board of Trustees

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

If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to weyeastboard@googlegroups.com or talk to any board member (David Tode O., Nancy D., Dan E., Hank H., and Liana A.) on Sundays at church.

and a Book Review From Betsy...



All Things Shining: Reading the Western Classics to Find Meaning in a Secular Age

by Hubert Dreyfus and Sean Dorrance Kelly

These two philosophers (from U. C. Berkeley and Harvard) show ways of thinking, seeing and acting that we no longer have. The Greeks of Homer's time felt the activity and immanence of their gods in their lives. For example, Helen of Troy was under the influence of Aphrodite—erotic love; Achilles the warrior—Ares; and Odysseus wandered over the waters for 10 years with the guidance of Athena, goddess of wisdom. Dreams, feelings and moods were public and shared, not attributed to separate individuals as they are now (no psychoanalysis!) Each god/goddess also represented a specific kind of excellence.

We understand excellence as in a figure who is incomparable—Willie Mays; Nureyev, the dancer; Pavarotti, whose gorgeous sound seemed incredible—you name them. We don't associate these gifts with specific "gods." But, because we don't think that way, we may miss opportunities to recognize "shining things" as they occur.

Western thinking has passed through the Greeks, through Roman, and Christian, and entered the "enlightenment," wherein all must be explained "scientifically," splitting apart what we think from what we intuit. Now we are beginning to recognize that "scientific method" depends on what and how scientists study—and what they ignore or are unaware of.

Monotheism isn't the only glimpse we have! These two philosophers show there are "manifold senses of the sacred." This book is illuminating and shows that philosophy and philosophers are really alive and useful today. [Available at Multnomah County Library]

—Betsy M.

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in November and December

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

NOVEMBER 6

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

NOVEMBER 13

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

NOVEMBER 20

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Marcia Stanard's Ordination** • 6:00 pm.
First Unitarian Church, Eliot Chapel, SW 12th & Salmon St. Everyone is invited.

NOVEMBER 27

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am
- **Thanksgiving Luncheon for the Seniors** (*Because of Marcia's ordination on the 20th, our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon that we put on for 50 seniors from the Senior Center will be held this year on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 27th.*) Please contact Mark about bringing a dish. Thank you.

DECEMBER 4

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

DECEMBER 11

- **Celebration of Light rehearsal** • 12:00 noon
- **No Potluck Brunch this Sunday**

DECEMBER 18

- **Potluck Brunch** • bring a dish to share right after the Celebration of Light.

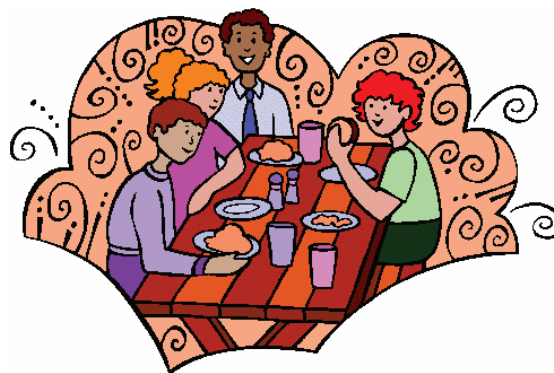
DECEMBER 24

- **Christmas Eve Service** • 5:00 pm

UU Adventures in Eating

Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks are *usually* held on the second Sunday of each month. We will have our November potluck on **November 13th**. Bring a dish to share. Please note that there will be **no potluck on December 11** due to the Celebration of Light rehearsal. It will instead be a week later, **December 18** at 11:30 am.



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.

November

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

November 6 DRUM CIRCLE

With the pulse of a beat, people have been making a statement of humanity and grandness longer than we have been able to speak. By drumming together, we connect with an ancient practice and with the pulse of our circle. Please join us as

Paul Evans, musician, artist and friend of Wy'east, takes us deeper, in another participatory drum circle.

Bring your drums! We will have some available, but the service will involve everyone, with or without one.

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.

November 13 THE SILVER-LINED TOILET

In general, looking on the bright side is a good thing. Sometimes, however, life gets really overwhelming. Where's that balance between being grateful for the good, and acknowledging the difficulty of the bad? Sermon by our minister, **Marcia Stanard**.

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.

November 20 BREAKING BREAD

Each autumn, we pause to give thanks for the food we gather from the earth. 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.

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.

November 27 WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS

The issue of marriage rights for same-sex couples is a hotly debated topic. Some states have instituted civil unions, and even Oregon has created domestic partnerships. But is that enough? **Debbie and Brenda Dixon-Smith**, married in Canada in 2006, will share their experiences with the institution of marriage and why it is important to ensure marriage equality for all people.

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.

December

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

December 4 THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Back with us from the Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Hood River, **Elaine Castles** says: “According to our Founding Fathers, all Americans have a right to ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ But is happiness really something that we can pursue? Let us explore what ancient religious wisdom and modern psychological research have to say about the true nature of happiness.”

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.

December 11 SAYING YES

What does it mean to answer yes? Sermon 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 class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Celebration of Light rehearsal— there will be **no Potluck** (see box)

December 18 CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): This is an intergenerational service. 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 SERVICE

Come for this intergenerational service which will end with the traditional candle-lit Silent Night. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

December 25 NO SUNDAY SERVICE

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 18. The children will act out scenes in stories from Native American, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Thai, Chinese and American traditions.

Rehearsal for the celebration of light will be after worship on December 11, at about Noon. Pizza 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’re going to be even more organized than last year!

We will be displacing the potluck – people are welcome to stay and eat 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 11, 12:00 Noon**

Celebration of Light: **December 18, 10:30 am**