



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 2010

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Wy'east is now 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!

From our New Consulting Minister! ♦ ♦ ♦

Remember that overwhelming rush of excitement you felt when starting something new? Maybe it was a new relationship, or bringing home a new baby, or starting college or a new job? Filled with hope and optimism, and probably a little trepidation as well? I remember bringing each of my daughters home from the hospital—I was head over heels in love, all consumed with the excitement and responsibility of parenthood, and wondering exactly what path lay ahead for this new one in my arms. Today, as my girls are 12 and almost 9, I know that I couldn't have imagined the path. I had to live it.

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Sunday Sermons

9/5	Do I Know You?	Katy L.
9/12	Coming Home and Beginning Again	Marcia Stanard
9/19	Unexpected Graces	Alex R. and Mabel P.
9/26	An Immigrant Family's Journey	Alfonso Lopez
10/3	Moving Free	Karla D. & Linda B.
10/10	Coming out about Church	Marcia Stanard
10/17	The Unitarians and the Universalists	Rev. Sarah Schurr
10/24	Our Core Emotional Being	Asha Hawkesworth
10/31	Honoring by Remembering	Katy L.

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

From the Minister *(continued)*

I'm feeling some of that same excitement right now, and from the unanimous vote of August 22nd to hire me as your consulting minister, I'm imagining some of you are feeling hopeful and optimistic as well. We are moving forward together into a new phase of life at Wy'east.

I know that many of you weren't able to be at that service, and I hope to get acquainted (or in some cases reacquainted) with you soon. I will be leading services on September 12th and October 10th and pretty regularly on the second Sunday of the month.

I chose to become a minister because I believe that the things we do in church—worshiping together, caring for each other, learning, teaching and serving the greater world—are among the most important things we do in our lives. The opportunity to be invited into those big conversations—the kinds we have in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning, or the kinds we have in a hospital room—is a sacred trust.

Over the next few months, I plan to listen to your dreams for Wy'east, and to enter into some of those big conversations with you. We will talk about what matters to you, and I will share with you some ideas for how to take that sense of hope and excitement into the wider world.

I'm particularly excited about the service on October 10th. The next day is National Coming Out Day, a holiday encouraging lesbian/gay/bisexual and transgendered folks to share with friends, co-workers and loved ones the truth about who they are. In that spirit, the sermon that day is called "Coming Out About Church" and in it we'll explore ways to share some of the exciting stuff about Wy'east with those people in our lives who might be interested in our liberal religious community.

I look forward to working with you to envision, discover and walk the path that will best allow Wy'east to thrive and grow. Let us journey together.

Warmly,
Marcia

From the Board

On Sunday, August 22nd, the Wy'east membership voted, 30 for and 0 against, to hire Marcia Standard as our 1/4 time Consulting Minister.

Marcia has been studying for the Unitarian Universalist ministry for the last 5 years in a Modified Residency Program (MRP) at Meadville Lombard in Chicago, IL, and is due to graduate after her final class in January. Marcia has been actively involved in the student government while at Meadville, serving as vice president and president of the MRP student body. Currently, she is the student representative to the Board of Trustees.

Marcia recently finished her internship at Saltwater Church in South King County, Washington. It is a mark of the minister's and congregation's respect for her that she's been invited to coordinate pastoral care as the 1/4-time Sabbatical Minister while Rev. James Kubal-Komoto is on leave next spring and summer. Prior to her internship, she worked for two years as the Director of Religious Education right here at Wy'east and completed her Clinical Pastoral Education at Legacy Hospital in Portland. She is a native Oregonian and the mother of two daughters.

Marcia has been actively involved in Unitarian Universalism for more than a decade, and has taught Religious Education and been a Youth Advisor for several years. She was a chaperone for the 2008 youth pilgrimage trip to the Unitarian homelands of Hungary and Romania.

We are looking to Marcia to help lead the congregation's growth – in numbers, in spiritual depth, and in our mission to be a moral voice in the larger community. And we are very much looking forward to working with Marcia, on these and other tasks.

Marcia's hiring is the culmination of a process which began at the start of the spring. Many thanks are due to the committee that managed our search – and worked hard over the usually laid-back summer months. Thank you Mark, Dan, Carol, Katy, Karl, and Debra!

With Marcia's first service as our new minister, on Sunday, September 12th, the summer is over. We have lots to do – and it is time to get moving!

–Tode O.

Wy'east Social Justice Monthly Donations

On one Sunday every month for the past four years, we have taken all the money from our weekly offering and donated it as a Special Collection to some group that's up to good work. For the past two of those four years, these Special Collections have had a theme – in 2008-2009, supporting organizations such as food banks that get food to people without it – and in 2009-2010, supporting organizations such as community health clinics that get health care to people without it. Each time we have the special offering – always on the third Sunday of the month – we invite a leader from the designated group to address us for a few minutes during our service, which turns out to be gift in itself. The speakers appreciate the opportunity to tell their stories, and we hear first-hand accounts, not just dry statistics.



The theme for our Special Collections this year is Immigrants and Refugees. In **September**, we'll be donating to the **Hacienda Community Development Corporation**, a local non-profit that Laura R. connects with in her work. Here is Hacienda's mission statement: "Hacienda CDC develops affordable housing and builds thriving communities in support of working Latino families and others in Oregon by promoting healthy living and economic advancement." www.haciendacdc.org

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 weeast-worship@googlegroups.com or talk to or talk to Mark A., Brooke C., Katy L., Mary P., or Elizabeth S.

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

Association Sunday

As part of Association Sunday this year, UU congregations around the world celebrate the 50th anniversary of Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Sarah Schurr will be giving a sermon at Wy'east Oct. 17 on the history of the Unitarians and the Universalists that shapes our religious tradition. Congregations around the world – and Wy'east – will be taking a special collection that will go toward ensuring that our faith thrives for generations to come.

Beginning in the Spring of 2010, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) embarked on an in-depth strategic review of leadership and growth in order to develop an action plan to strengthen our community for future generations.

"We want congregations that are spiritually deep places where strong and enduring relationships can flourish, and that are engaged in their communities as sources of moral vision and effective action. We want our religious homes to be truly multi-generational and reflect the racial and cultural diversity of the wider world. And, we want professional religious leaders who are visionary, spiritual, innovative, and diverse."

—*The Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA*

Please give generously in honor of Association Sunday on **Oct. 17 to support this vision of a strong and vibrant UU denomination for future generations**. To give online, visit: <http://www.uua.org/giving>.

Contacting RE & the Board of Trustees

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

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

Getting Connected @ Wy'east

Get your name in the **directory** and on the Wy'east **email list** (not heavy traffic but a great way to stay informed about all sorts of good stuff) by contacting Hanna.nelson@gmail.com.

Join the Wy'east Google Groups...

Wy'east has two Google groups: "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).

How do I subscribe to a group?

You can subscribe to a group via email or through the Google Groups web interface:

To subscribe to a group via email, send an email to [Groupname]+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

For example, if you wanted to join a group wyeast-chat, you'd send an email to:

wyeast-chat+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

To subscribe to a group through the web interface, simply log into your Google Account (or create one at Google.com; it's free and you don't need to have Google email) and visit the group of your choice. Then click the **"Join this group"** link on the right-hand side of the page under "About this group."

Note: Wy'east groups are restricted membership, so the group owner must approve your subscription request for you to join.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bi-monthly. The deadline for the **November/December** issue submissions will be **Thursday, October 21st**. 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. Thanks!

To save paper and printing costs, we are printing fewer copies of the newsletter. We encourage you to view the newsletter online, at: <http://wyeastuu.org/newsletter.php>

Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice

Kickoff & First Annual Planning Meeting

Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice is an emerging organization dedicated to bringing Unitarian Universalist values into statewide politics in Oregon. In partnership with Oregon's UU congregations, we will educate and advocate on selected legislative issues during the upcoming session in Salem. Our first order of business is to select the issues on which to concentrate in 2011. You are cordially invited to our First Annual Planning Meeting on October 30, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the social hall of the UU Congregation of Salem at 5090 Center Street NE, Salem OR. Members of the Salem social justice committee have generously offered to provide us with lunch.

At the meeting we will collectively select one or two issues to address. If there is an issue you think should be considered, please send an email to Barbara Smith-Thomas at smiththomas@att.net with a summary of the issue and one or two key organizations that are championing it in the legislature.

Please RSVP to Judy Zimmerman at jjzimmerman15@yahoo.com, so that we know how many people to expect.

Heads Up about a Change in Our Potlucks

Since our consulting minister, Marcia Stanard, is going to be delivering a sermon to us on the second Sunday of every month this year, we thought it would be a good idea to move our monthly potluck to the second Sundays as well. The potlucks usually last longer than our social hours, so this will afford Marcia more time to be with us – as a congregation, and as individuals.

The **next Wy'east potluck** will be on **September 12th**, and following that, on **October 10th**.

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 5

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am

SEPTEMBER 12

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

SEPTEMBER 19

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am

SEPTEMBER 26

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** 11:40 am



OCTOBER 3

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am

OCTOBER 10

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

OCTOBER 17

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am

OCTOBER 24

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** 11:40 am

OCTOBER 31

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am

UU Adventures in Eating

SUNDAY POTLUCK – Our potlucks will be held on **September 12th** at 11:30 am and **October 10th** 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.

Young Adults at Wy'east

Young adults at Wy'east sometimes get together for spiritual discussions, volunteering and playing. To join in or suggest outings, contact Elizabeth S.

TWO MONTHS OF SUNDAYS

September

September 5 DO I KNOW YOU?

Last April, a small band of intrepid minister seekers asked our congregation, “Who are you?” in a four-page survey. Our congregation answered in ways both surprising and reassuring. Now that we have selected our new minister, do we know who we are? Do we know what we want? Led by Wy’east member **Katy L.**

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 12 COMING HOME AND BEGINNING AGAIN

As we gather together for the beginning of the church year, we’ll do our traditional water communion, and our new ministerial consultant will share her thoughts on where we’ve been and where we’re headed together.

Marcia Stanard will lead the service. *Please bring water that represents someplace that was meaningful to you this summer, whether around the world or in your own backyard. We will return together & celebrate where we’ve been and where we’re going.*

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Children will stay for this Intergenerational Service, but Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

September 19 UNEXPECTED GRACES

When was the last time you ran into a surprise that helped brighten a gloomy day, or found yourself loving something that you only reluctantly agreed to? **Alex R.** and **Mabel P.** speak today about “unexpected graces” – kindnesses, lucky events, and even unpleasant twists that nonetheless take us down the right path!

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 26 AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY’S JOURNEY

From the 1920’s to now. This is the first of our services this year about immigrants and refugees, with **Alfonso Lopez**, an Assistant Professor and Assistant to the Provost for Diversity at Pacific University in Forest Grove.

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

October 3 MOVING FREE

An opportunity to express ourselves through movement, with no “have-to’s” about what it should look like, other than safety. Includes a spiritual component. Led by **Karla D. & Linda B.**, both of whom have learned from this form.

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 10 COMING OUT ABOUT CHURCH

In some liberal circles, it’s hard to admit we attend services every Sunday. How do we talk about Wy’east and what it means to us with our friends, co-workers and colleagues? Our Consulting Minister **Marcia Stanard** will lead 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 17 THE UNITARIANS AND THE UNIVERSALISTS

Association Sunday 2010: Our modern UU faith is the result of a merger of two liberal religious traditions 50 years ago. Who were these denominations and which of the two groups ended up “winning” in this process of cultural and theological assimilation? **Rev. Sarah Schurr**, a founding member of Wy’east, will explore these questions and the impact on our church community. Rev. Schurr serves as PNWD Developmental Outreach Minister for Alaska and acts as consulting minister for the Juneau UU Fellowship.

Today’s service is part of a worldwide annual celebration of Unitarian Universalism called Association Sunday, which this year marks the 50th anniversary of the merging of Unitarians and Universalists. A special collection will be taken today to go toward the continuing vitality of our liberal religious tradition. (See article on page 4.)

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 24 OUR CORE EMOTIONAL BEING

What would happen if children ran the world? Often, they do. The inner child is your core emotional being, the “person” who shares your body with you and who can respond to situations before your grown-up self even has a chance to think about it. This core self determines how you respond to the world and whether you repeat old wounds or heal them. Come meet your inner child and learn how to honor his or her feelings so that they don’t run your life. Presented by guest speaker **Asha Hawkesworth**. Asha is a writer, psychic, and energy healer whose main focus is healing and spirituality.

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.

October 31 HONORING BY REMEMBERING

Countless cultures past and present set aside a day to remember those who are no longer with us, to celebrate their lives, to give voice to the grief of loss, and to keep what’s important about each life alive and present in those who remain. Come celebrate Samhain with us! Led by Wy’east member **Katy L.**

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.