



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

January/February 2016

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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 MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

What We Want in a Minister

The Wy'east Ministerial Search Committee has been hard at work, and it's time for another update. The Committee has had several meetings where we reviewed results of the congregational survey and focus groups, and we discussed our priorities for the qualities we are seeking in a minister. We then reviewed the 5 applications we received by our deadline of November 15. We conducted several interviews via Skype, and we are in the process of gathering more information.

An important (and interesting) part of our process has been the input provided by Wy'east members and friends, which helped us discern the qualities we seek in a minister. We want to share some of this information.

When asked what qualities would make an ideal minister, the congregation identified three important areas: our ideal minister would have exceptional interpersonal, spiritual and administrative skills. Oh, and by the way, the minister would be active in making the world a better place.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

1/3	Giving Back	Emily Goetz
1/10	Choice and Happiness	Rev. Mark Gallagher
1/17	Taking Care of the Village	Anthony Deloney
1/24	Illness, Trauma, and Grace	Rev. Barbara Stevens
1/31	Compassion	Rev. Sarah Schurr
2/7	Raising the Wage – Workers at the Forefront	Cristina Marquez
2/14	Great Mystery Theology	Rev. Mark Gallagher
2/14	Hope for a Stable Climate	Vinh Mason
2/28	On Creating Communities	Rev. Barbara Stevens

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

What We Want in a Minister

(Continued from page 1)

Our preferred new minister has been described as a high energy, charismatic leader who will take the time to listen to us and learn about us before implementing their own model. He or she would act as a facilitator or coach who gently guides us to our common goal. This guidance will require flexibility and the ability to handle conflict. Most of all, they must be a caring person who is easy to relate to as if they are one of us.

Our preferred spiritual leader would deliver energetic, inspiring sermons in a manner that will challenge us intellectually and spiritually. The new minister should also know how to get things done in a timely and organized way while using their skills to handle differences of opinion. Ideally, the person would have contacts with the Unitarian Universalist hierarchy and social justice organizations that could help us achieve our goals.

Social and environmental justice is very important to us. The new minister should have a history of involvement with organizations that support these causes so that they can lead the congregation in further involvement.

We on the Search Committee can't guarantee that our final candidate will have all of these qualities all of the time. However, we are aiming to get as close as possible so that Wy'east will grow in spirit and numbers, and so, be able to make an even greater difference in this world.

In Community,

Karl A., Secretary, Wy'east Ministerial Search Committee; Lana A., Committee Chair; Hank H., Treasurer; Amy O., Survey Coordinator; Paul S., Hospitality Coordinator

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is February 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.



*Artist credit:
Keddy Ann Outlaw*

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 January 14th and February 11th at 7 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.

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.

Renewing Creation from the Ground Up

January 30-31, 2016 Earth Care Summit

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns invites you to the Seventh Annual Earth Care Summit: "Renewing Creation from the Ground Up" at the University of Portland.

The Saturday, Jan. 30 Climate Arts Event from 8-9:30 p.m. will feature Kim Stafford and Anna Fritz. The Sunday, Jan. 31 Summit from 2-7:30 p.m. will feature a keynote by the Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley (Keetowah Cherokee legal descendant), breakout sessions, dinner, a resource fair, highlights from the UN Paris Climate Conference and closing remarks from Mayor Charlie Hales.

Registration is now available online at emoregon.org or download a registration form. For more information, call Program Assistant Heather Moline, at 503-221-1054 x205.

Parking and Transit For directions and parking information, visit www.up.edu. For public transit, go to trimet.org. Public transit is strongly encouraged, especially on Saturday evening, because of a sport event taking place at the same time.

Sponsored by: Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (and its projects Oregon Interfaith Power & Light and Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership) and University of Portland.

Youth Ministry throughout the Pacific Western Region

In the Mountain Desert District and the Pacific Northwest District, we have created **Multicultural Support teams** that are charged with creating programming at youth events to support intercultural sensitivity and awareness. They also promote caucusing opportunities for our Unitarian Universalist (UU) youth of color. This is a small step toward making our youth communities more inclusive, but a necessary one nonetheless.

There is a **new scholarship process** for youth events in the Pacific Western Region (PWR). This process engages youth, their families, congregations, and beyond (district and regional resources) to ensure that all four support systems play a role in an individual's participation. The scholarship acknowledges that when youth are transformed by these spectacular, faith forming offerings, they return bringing new skills and abilities, which contribute not only to the youth, but to their families, congregations, and wider communities as well.

The **Multicultural Leadership School** is now called "Thrive", and this amazing opportunity will be coming to the Pacific Western Region July 9-13, at First Unitarian Denver. This immersion experience is for our youth of color and has been lauded as truly transformative.

And we are proud to announce that the PWR will be hosting a **Youth Ministry Summit** called "Engaging Spiritual Practice" September 23-25th at **First Unitarian Portland**. The youth and adult attendees will look at various ways to practice our faith via many methods, tapping into our historical roots and embodying youth ministry best practice models. Rev. Tandi Rogers is our keynote speaker, and we have an amazing cadre of support staff including worship genius, Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong, musician, Matt Myers, leadership guru and Director of Faith Formation, Jessica Laike, among many others! Teams of adults and youth are encouraged to attend from UU congregations both within the PWR and across the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Registration will open in early 2016! Be there or be au contraire!

Save the dates, and thanks for tuning in! If you have youth ministry ideas or interest, please don't hesitate to reach out. [For more info: <http://www.uua.org/re/youth/events>]

Eric Bliss, Pacific Western Region Youth Ministry Specialist
ebliss@uua.org

Special Collections for January and February

January: **SELF-ENHANCEMENT, INC. (SEI)**

Self Enhancement, Inc. is dedicated to guiding underserved youth to realize their full potential. Working with schools, families, and partner community organizations, SEI provides support, guidance, and opportunities to achieve personal and academic success. SEI brings hope to individual young people and enhances the quality of community life. In 31 years of supporting at-risk urban youth, SEI has grown from a 1-week summer basketball camp to a flourishing agency serving thousands of students each year in the greater Portland, Oregon area, with plans to replicate across the country.



Whereas others see only statistics, we see strong individuals, tomorrow's business owners and leaders, teachers and citizens. We help our students see themselves and their potential the same way. Then we help them find their strengths, ignite their passion and identify the plan that will move them in the direction of their dream. And we stay with them every step of the way, 24/7, 365 days a year from ages 8 through 25. This long-term investment pays off, as does the depth of personal relationships between students and their SEI Coordinator, and comprehensive programs including in-school, after-school, and six-weeks in the summer.

There is no magic in SEI's graduation rates of over 95%, just a lot of love, time, and proven strategies. SEI builds a successful family around kids with the goal of creating positive contributing citizens. By seeing children for who they can become and instilling a deep belief in each student's gifts, SEI sees youth potential realized every day.

February: **URBAN NATURE PARTNERS**



Urban Nature Partners PDX empowers youth from underserved neighborhoods through building long term mentoring relationships and providing access to meaningful outdoor experiences. Mentor-youth activities take place in easily accessible outdoor areas in and around Portland, are driven by the interests and abilities of each youth, and are relevant to a young person's culture and background. Group events include their family members so everyone gets to enjoy all that our great urban greenspaces have to offer.

UNP-PDX incorporates the best practices of traditional mentoring in establishing meaningful, long-term relationships that help young people build confidence,

resiliency, problem solving skills, social competency, and academic success, as well as help prevent problem behaviors. It also draws upon best practices in education and outdoor recreation by providing informal environmental learning through direct inquiry and experience and by building a sense of place through the exploration of one's natural environment.

Combining the best of these disciplines together in one program provides young people with a uniquely relevant and long term series of opportunities that build better health and well being, teach them about the outdoors and potential career opportunities, and help them become empowered to make their own decisions and succeed in other parts of their young lives.

Social Justice Highlights

Wy'east as a congregation is active in several different aspects of social justice, but in this column our Social Justice Committee would like to highlight what's being done out in the community by some of our individual members on their own time. Each newsletter may include one or more write-ups, with a brief description of an organization that someone from Wy'east supports and how they are involved. If you want to know more about the organization, please contact the person that is highlighted.

Barbara R. volunteers at the Reentry Transition Center, a program run by Mercy Corps for recently incarcerated individuals. It provides for immediate assistance such as housing referrals, meals, and clothing, plus some long term goals like employment assistance, counseling, parenting, and family reconciliation. Barbara has organized visits for state legislators to familiarize them with the work done there. She's also a greeter, spending time with people who are waiting to see the staff, making them feel comfortable and welcome. The RTC was the recipient of this year's collection by the UUA General Assembly here in Portland.

Jon B. volunteers with the Oregon Organizational Development Network, which works with nonprofits on processes that allow them to run better, spend more time on their missions, and meet their goals. He assists with mission statements, strategic plans, vision statements, board development, open-ended conversations (including being willing to ask the critical questions), seeing strengths, and realizing opportunities. Jon has been involved in ten projects with organizations in the environmental and social justice fields. If you know of an organization that might benefit from this kind of assistance, he welcomes you to contact him.

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in January & February

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.

January 3

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Endorsement Update** • 12:00 noon

January 10

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

January 17

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

January 24

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

January 31

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

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.

February 7

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

February 14

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

February 21

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

February 28

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

Sunday Potlucks

Our potlucks will be held on **January 10th** and **February 14th**. Bring a dish to share.



POETRY GROUP FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

The poetry group will meet on its regularly scheduled **fourth Sunday** in January and February. 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.

ENDORSEMENT UPDATE

After the service on **January 3rd**, please join with the Social Justice Committee at noon for an informal Q&A discussion on our proposed process for Wy'east endorsement of issue campaigns (not candidates). We'll gather at some tables to the left of the stage. Come and share your input on this potentially new way to enact our UU values in the wider world.

January 3 GIVING BACK

Emily Goetz is the managing director of a communications agency unique in that it works solely for causes. Emily will share about her own path toward defining a life and work that supports positive change and community, plus ideas on how others can explore what community means to them, including what the positive change is they can contribute.

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.

January 10 CHOICE AND HAPPINESS

Modern life involves a rapidly expanding menu of choices, which is in many ways good. Yet it is common to feel plagued by stress and disappointment in relation to all this choice. Can we learn to choose in ways that lead to happiness? Sermon 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.

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

January 17 TAKING CARE OF THE VILLAGE

Anthony Deloney, Director of Youth Services at Self Enhancement, Inc. came to SEI as a youth participant, returned after college to serve through AmeriCorps, and has now been working there almost 20 years. He experienced firsthand the power of being surrounded by positive adults and the true village that is formed and cared for at SEI. Anthony will share stories including his own that demonstrate what is possible in a culture that believes all kids can and will succeed.

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.

January 24 ILLNESS, TRAUMA, AND GRACE

Amid stigma, rejection, and abuse, people with mental illness, physical disabilities, and shattered souls try to make a life for themselves. What kind of life can they have? What is our responsibility to them, as individuals and as a society? How do we move from entitlement to inclusion? 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.

January 31 COMPASSION

From the science of compassion to the challenges it offers us, founding Wy’east member **Rev. Sarah Schurr** will help us look deeply into this most important of religious acts.

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.

February 7 RAISING THE WAGE – WORKERS AT THE FOREFRONT

Cristina Marquez, Regional Outreach Coordinator for the Raise The Wage campaign in Oregon, will speak on people struggling to get by, and the importance of raising their wages as an economic and social justice issue. She will tell her own story, including that of her family, as well as those of others.

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.

February 14 GREAT MYSTERY THEOLOGY

Careful observation has revealed a seamless natural Universe of breathtaking magnificence and mystery. Understanding ourselves as part of that magnificence opens the door to a deep and vital spirituality. Sermon 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.

February 21 HOPE FOR A STABLE CLIMATE

Vinh Mason will be speaking about his experience as a Climate Action Policy Coordinator at the City of Portland. After 23 years of dedicating his career to the climate crisis, he will share a perspective on why now, more than ever, there is hope for humanity to stabilize the world's climate.

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.

February 28 ON CREATING COMMUNITIES

In which we learn lessons about community from bees, bacteria, and god (with a small g), plus lessons about resilience and compassion from refugees and missionaries. 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.



WhaleCoast Alaska 2016

WHAT: Four Unitarian Universalist Fellowships in Alaska invite you to our unforgettable, 23rd annual Alaska tour program.

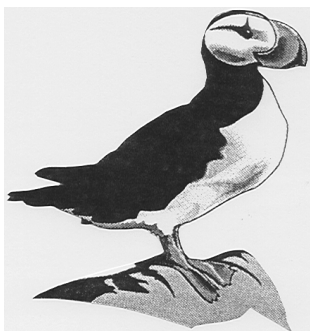
TOUR #1: National Park Tour, June 11 to 20 – \$2,879

TOUR #2: All-Alaska Tour, July 15 to 27 – \$3,711

WHERE: From the coastal waters to the sunny Interior, from wilderness to modern cities. We experience the best of Alaska: **Fairbanks, Denali Park, Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, Seward**

SEE: – Wildlife: whales, seals, bears, moose, caribou, & more.
– Glaciers, islands, fjords, and mountain ranges.
– Native American artists and dancers.
– Alaska's finest museums.
– Spectacular travel by train and plane.

STAY: Real Alaska! UU homestays, meals, & dinner parties with Alaska UUs who treat you like company.



Director: Dave Frey, longtime Fairbanks UU

More information: www.WhaleCoastAK.org

Email: dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org

Address: 675 Gold Vein Road, Fairbanks, AK 99712

Telephone: 907-322-4966

Deadline: March 1 or until 36 guests register