



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 2012

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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!*

Musings from Marcia...

New Beginnings

ASK A CHILD when the beginning of the year is, and a common answer would be September. New pencils, notebooks, backpacks – a fresh start to accompany a new grade, often a new teacher, sometimes a whole new school. The Jewish Calendar begins in the early fall as well, with the holiday of Rosh Hashanah.

The season of Spring would also seem to make sense as a time to talk about new beginnings. Baby animals are born, trees bud, the earth seems to literally wake up and flower.

But under the Gregorian Calendar, the New Year begins on January 1st – the middle of Winter, for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere. In many ways, it seems a strange time to begin the year. True, Winter Solstice has passed, and the light is beginning to return, but Spring still seems a long way off. It's difficult to trust in the promise of new life when the skies can still seem interminably grey.

But those adorable baby lambs that show up in the OSU lambing barn in late February were conceived in October. The tulips and daffodils were planted as bulbs in late fall, and keep reappearing each year after they hibernate under ground. Turtles reappear in spring basking on logs in lakes and ponds after hibernating underwater all winter, their metabolism slowing down so much they absorb all the oxygen they need through their skin.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

1/1	New Year's Hymn Sing	Wy'east
1/8	Recovery	Rev. Marcia Stanard
1/15	Progress in our time	Chalice Circle
1/22	Coming of Age(s)	Rev. Marcia Stanard
1/29	William Ellery Channing Meets Lady Gaga	Sarah Schurr
2/5	Intergenerational Brigid Ritual	Holly O'Brien
2/12	No Greater Love	Rev. Marcia Stanard
2/19	Called Out	Rev. Dr. Paul Davis
2/26	The Lost Arts	Patti Pomerantz

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

From the Minister *(Continued)*

Perhaps there's something appropriate about the actual beginning of the year being at a time no one would guess? Maybe it makes sense that the turning itself is an unseen process? From hibernation to breath, conception to birth, bulb to blossom. Perhaps the mystery really is the most important step.

Warmly,
Marcia

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 March/April issue submissions is Thursday, February 16th. 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>

WANTED: One or two new folks to join the Worship Committee. Ability and willingness to Lay Lead services a plus, but not required. Must be able to meet monthly, discuss ideas for worship services, and communicate effectively with outside speakers. Compensation: the reward of high quality, meaningful worship services and the gratitude of Wy'east members, friends and visitors. Contact Rev. Marcia at minister@wyeastuu.org

Yearning for Depth

COME TO SEMINARY FOR A DAY AT FIRST
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
First Unitarian Church "Eliot Center"
1011 SW 12th Ave., Portland, OR 97205
Fee: \$30 (scholarships available)

ARE YOU YEARNING FOR GREATER DEPTH IN
YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE?

If Unitarian Universalism calls your spirit to explore your theology more deeply; if you've always wanted to know more about the Bible and other sacred texts; if you long to grow in your understanding of our Unitarian Universalist history and heritage; if you seek spiritual practice that might inspire and sustain your own bending toward justice — then Seminary for a Day may be the best way you can spend Saturday, Jan. 28. It will be a day of reflection and depth for all, in no way limited to people considering seminary.

You are invited to have a taste of seminary education according to the learning model at Starr King School for the Ministry, one of our UU seminaries. Rev. John Buehrens, recent member of the Starr King Board of Trustees and former President of the UUA, and a team of local clergy, will offer you a day of theological reflection and spiritual exploration. Workshops will include sessions on "Understanding the Bible," "Universalists and Unitarians in America: A People's History," embodied theology, process theology, spiritual practice and environmental awareness.

Keynote Address by The Rev. John Buehrens

"WHEN YOU RETURN TO THE ROOT . . ."

A Chinese proverb says, "When you return to the root, you find the meaning."

Asking "What is liberal religion for? What evolutionary purpose does it still serve?" former UUA president and author John Buehrens will draw on history, theology and anthropology to kick off our "seminary for a day" explorations. Respondents to the address will include Rev. Marilyn Sewell, minister emerita of First Unitarian Church of Portland.

Registration and more detailed information available at <http://firstunitarianportland.org/our-programs/other-news/325-seminary-for-a-day>

Wy'east Special Collections

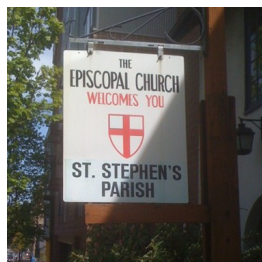
JANUARY – PFLAG PORTLAND



In addition to fulfilling its traditional role as a PFLAG chapter with support for parents of lesbian and gay children, PFLAG Portland has a special emphasis on serving the needs of transgender persons and the parents of transgender children.

And in partnership with the PFLAG Oregon State Council and Basic Rights Oregon, PFLAG Portland has launched a new effort to reach families of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the African American community in Portland. The goal of this project is to create and mentor a stand alone PFLAG chapter in the African American community and for the African American community.

FEBRUARY – ST. STEPHEN'S TABLE



The mission of St. Stephen's Table is "to feed those who are hungry in body and spirit," including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Each month, this project of St. Stephen's Episcopal Parish

downtown provides approximately 3,000 meals, plus a community food pantry. Last year, a support group for LGBT adults living on the street was held at the parish. Many members of that group still come to the Table.

Statistics for homeless LGBT adults are not well documented, but the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force together with the National Coalition for the Homeless, found that up to 42% of homeless youth identified as LGBT. And the Center for American Progress reports that a disproportionate rate of LGBT homeless adults were homeless as youth. In addition, lower incomes and poverty among LGBT adults are caused by workplace discrimination.

A Call to Chalice Lighters

The second Chalice Lighter call of this church year will be in your mailbox or inbox in early January. This is a very important call for one of our larger congregations, UU Church of Eugene, Oregon, which is putting the finishing touches on a new facility.

Eugene's growth to a program level congregation has been stymied by the lovely, but small church in the woods of South Hill that it has occupied for 50 years. That church has been sold, and the congregation purchased a former fraternal lodge in a densely populated area on the edge of downtown. The site is accessible by auto, city bus, and bicycle. They now have the space and location for sustained growth.

The worship area, while providing over twice the space of the old church, is flat. In order for the choir and presenters to be seen by all, they need to be on a raised platform and risers. The cost of that necessary feature is substantial, and the cost of a mobile lift to make the platform accessible for presenters or choir members with limited mobility is also substantial.

The total cost to the congregation will be \$38,702, amounting to barely 1% of the total project cost, but representing 1/8 of the amount needed to complete the renovation and remodeling. The congregation has invested over \$2.5 million of its money and volunteer labor, and has a substantial mortgage to repay over the coming years.

A Chalice Lighter grant of \$38,702 would be a record setter, but it is not unattainable. If each and every PNWD Chalice Lighter responds to this call with a donation of just \$17, Eugene would get their needs met. Eugene has almost one half of their congregation enrolled as Chalice Lighters and has pledged to not only reach 50%, but maintain that level of involvement to be able to help other congregations on future calls. So watch for your letter or email and respond generously. Donations must be received by March 5, 2012 to go towards this call.

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 wyeast-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 RE Committee...

Dear Wy'east,

The holidays are always a special time in Religious Education. Each year, the kids come together to collect money for a chosen charity, practice and perform The Celebration of Light, and celebrate and discuss a few holidays along the way. Every year is a little different, as we pick different charities to give to, different roles to take on in the Celebration of Light play, and different holidays to celebrate as a group. But regardless of the year, the kids always provide an astonishing amount of enthusiasm, compassion, and sense of community. Come January, it's really time to give our kids a pat on the back.

This year, we took on a project called Sharing Our Abundance, where each of the kids decorated a recycled container to bring home and add a little bit of money to each day. The money was all given to Mercy Corps, an organization that assists with global poverty and disaster relief, in addition to assisting microentrepreneurs here in Portland with loans for startups. We're hoping to take the kids on a field trip to the Mercy Corps Action Center in the new year, where we'll get to find out a little more about what Mercy Corps does and confirm just how necessary the money we raised for them this season was.

In addition to raising money for Mercy Corps, the kids took another go at the Celebration of Light performance this year (thanks to Anders, as always, for enthusiastically and tirelessly coordinating this event!). The kids did a phenomenal job acting out stories from Native American, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Thai, Chinese and American traditions. Leading up to the performance, we spent some time talking about the significance of the great number of holidays that are celebrated across the world this time of year, and discussed the importance of creating and celebrating lightness and warmth within our lives while the days are shorter, darker, and colder.

In the new year, we'll be discussing LGBTQ identity in RE, to coincide with conversations that adults are also having across the street. We're excited to discuss such important issues with the children, and hope that you'll get involved in the conversation! If you're interested in joining us on a Sunday to discuss you or your loved ones' LGBTQ identities, please be sure to let any of us on the RE committee know.

Happy January! I have a feeling this is going to be a good year.

In faith,

Ashley



The Reverend Marcia Stanard's Ordination

On November 20, 2011 at 6:00 pm, the Eliot Chapel at First Unitarian Church was filled with Marcia's family, friends, members of First Unitarian, Wy'east Unitarian Universalist members, Marcia's mentors and fellow clergy.

The mood was set by the wonderful organ prelude: Piece d'Organ BMV572.

Marcia's daughters, Mika and Marcella, lit the chalice. The service was one of joy and appreciation for Marcia's hard work and dedication to Unitarian Universalist ministry. Although this was a formal, serious ceremony, it had several humorous moments, including parts of the sermon.

Liana and Tode presented Marcia with a clerical stole lovingly made by Barbara Smith-Thomas. The Wy'east UU members recited our covenant as part of the service.

Prior to the ordination, Tode, Mark, Mary, Katy, Alex, Hank, Betty, Liana, Emily, and Shayna prepared and served a delicious dinner to 50 guests including: northwest UU ministers, friends and family of Marcia, members of her former Saltwater Church congregation, and the Wy'east UU Board and Worship Committee. All of the leftover food was donated to the 13 Salmon homeless family day shelter hosted and run by First Unitarian Church.

The Ordination was followed by an elegant reception provided by members of First Unitarian.

We members of Wy'east UU are blessed to have Marcia as our minister and look forward to community and spiritual growth with her gentle guidance.

—Linda B.

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

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in January and February

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

JANUARY 1

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

JANUARY 8

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

JANUARY 15

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

JANUARY 22

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

JANUARY 29

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am



FEBRUARY 5

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

The Wy'east service on Sunday, February 5th, will be across the street at the Wee Works Preschool, because the Hollywood Senior Center is in use on that day by the Vietnamese community for their Tet New Year celebration.

FEBRUARY 12

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

FEBRUARY 19

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

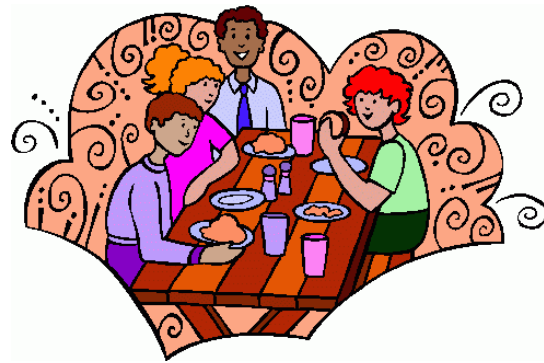
FEBRUARY 26

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

UU Adventures in Eating

Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks are held on the second Sunday of each month, **January 8th** and **February 12th** 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.

LOOKING TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH WY'EAST?

We are in need of a Restaurant Adventure coordinator, a fundraiser manager, and Religious Education volunteers. Other opportunities also exist; talk to Marcia!

January

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

January 1 **NEW YEAR'S HYMN SING**

What better way to greet the new year than to sing with your fellow Wy'easters about hope, love and justice! Our first service of the year will be a hymn sing. No musical skills necessary – just plenty of enthusiasm and a worshipful heart!

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.

January 8 **RECOVERY**

Recovering from the Holiday rush, from addiction, from loss or grief. What can we learn about moving forward, whole and healthy again? Led 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.

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

January 15 **PROGRESS IN OUR TIME**

We will look forward to commemorating MLK day by sharing our thoughts and feelings about what progress has been made in the areas of justice and equality within our lifetimes. We can also share how we plan to spend the holiday.

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.

January 22 **COMING OF AGE(S)**

We normally think of Coming of Age as something that youth do--that transition between childhood and young adulthood. But in a truly intergenerational community, what opportunities are there for all of us to learn the lessons of each life stage?

Led 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.

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

January 29 **WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING MEETS LADY GAGA**

One historic Unitarian theologian and one modern pop star; **Rev. Sarah Schurr** will share how they both speak to us of the nature of the human being.

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.

February 5 INTERGENERATIONAL BRIGHID RITUAL

Celebrate the turning of the wheel and the end of winter with this family friendly Pagan ritual in Brighid's honor. Brighid is the beloved Celtic Goddess of poetry, childbirth, healers, and home. The ritual will honor the gifts of winter and poetry while also making wishes for our future. The presenter, **Holly O'Brien**, is a stay-at-home mother to her three children, and is a divinity student at Cherry Hill Seminary with a major in Pagan Pastoral Care and Counseling. This service will be held across the street at the Wee Works Preschool, as the Hollywood Senior Center is in use on that day by the Vietnamese community for their Tet New Year celebration.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): This is an intergenerational service, so children will stay with their parents during the service. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

February 12 NO GREATER LOVE

On Valentine's Day our culture pushes us to celebrate romantic love to the exclusion of everything else, yet we are surrounded by a Universal Love. Understanding this, what would a modern Universalism look like? Led 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.

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

February 19 CALLED OUT

Rev. Dr. Paul Davis will speak about his own journey to come out and live authentically as a gay man, a process that took him until his last year in college. From 1997-2010, Paul was at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in downtown Portland. For the past year, he has been at St. Stephen's Episcopal Parish, working with the church's meals and food pantry program, which serves some of the LGBT homeless population downtown.

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.

February 26 THE LOST ARTS

UU minister, **Patti Pomerantz**, says: There's all the Christmas cards I won't have written, and all of the impersonal, computer generated Christmas letters I won't have read by the time I deliver this sermon in February. Add in the leisurely conversations I wish I'd had, and I bet we have something in common. As we become more dependent on smart phones and think pads, I wonder if we're not putting our religious selves on the same dusty shelves as our note cards.

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.



Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Mailing address: 1916 NE 38th Ave.

Portland, OR 97212

Return Service Requested