



# 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

January/February 2017

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*Wy'east meets at the  
Hollywood Senior Center  
(HSC) at 1820 NE 40th,  
Portland, Oregon. Services  
begin at 10:30 a.m.*

*Service Animals  
Welcome*

*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!*

## WRITTEN OFFERINGS – from Rev. Craig Moro

We enter a New Year filled with uncertainty, but also with resolution. Times like these are why we have—and keep—a living faith tradition. Times of success or triumph can make faith seem less crucial.

As I tried to sleep on Election Night in November, an old gospel-blues song kept coming to mind. Its refrain goes: “Keep your lamp—oh!—trimmed and burning!” I thought of our flaming chalice and our old Boston UU headquarters up on Beacon Hill, where a real beacon once stood, ready both to guide and warn.

Now, more than ever in recent memory, it's so important to keep the flame-wick of our beacon trimmed and supplied with fuel of the spirit so it can go on burning steadily. People will need to see that beacon through these threatening clouds.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## SUNDAY SERMONS

1/1	<b>New Year Hymn Sing</b>	Wy'east Members
1/8	<b>Epiphany: The Story of the Kings</b>	Rev. Sarah Schurr
1/15	<b>Rod, Staff, and Comfort</b>	Rev. Craig Moro
1/22	<b>Christianity's Forgotten First Creed</b>	Dr. Stephen Patterson
1/29	<b>The People Speak</b>	Wy'east Members
2/5	<b>The First Principle</b>	Rev. Craig Moro
2/12	<b>Pop Culture in Today's Muslim World</b>	Dr. Shatha Almutawa
2/19	<b>Open Doors and Tactical Grace</b>	Rev. Craig Moro
2/26	<b>Housing Justice In Action</b>	Margot Black

*(For sermon details, See “2 Months Of Sundays,” on Pages 6 & 7)*

## Written Offerings

*(Continued from page 1)* Let's not exhaust its flame or cloud it ourselves with anger and resentment. We are called to love our neighbor. We are also called to better understand our neighbors' feelings, though we may—and must—tirelessly challenge some of their *choices*. Let the quality of care that we show to our neighbors become a shining light to the nation and the world—far more dazzling than any tycoon's gleaming tower or gold-plated toilet.

The last stanza of that blues song repeats, “Children, don't you get worried,” over and over again. It's not a lullaby to make us sleep or forget the world outside. It's meant to help us stay relaxed, fresh like children, and ready.

Ready for what? We will know soon enough as this New Year progresses. Let our New Year's resolution be this: to stay resolved, and stay engaged!

Your Worship Committee has planned a series of excellent programs from December through early January. I won't be speaking again at Wy'east until January 15, just before Martin Luther King Day. Until then, keep your lamp—oh!—trimmed and burning. And we shall overcome.

In faith and fellowship,

*Craig Moro*

[Rev. Moro can be reached by email, [cmoro@willamette.edu](mailto:cmoro@willamette.edu) or by phone at 503-851-4757, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. most days, except in an emergency.]

## Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is Feb. 16th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book reviews, favorite spiritual practices to: [wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com](mailto: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/>.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:wyeast-board@googlegroups.com) or talk to any board member on Sundays at church.

### WY'EAST BOARD MEETINGS

At our last meeting, the board decided to switch our meetings to the **second Tuesday** of the month, so the upcoming meetings are **January 10** and **February 14**, 7:00-8:30 p.m. We are now meeting at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church (1907 NE 45th Ave.), either in the library or in the conference room next to our office. People who are planning to come to the meeting should be sure to let a board member know so that we can make sure someone monitors the door to let them in.

## 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](http://www.wyecastuu.org/contact)

or [groups.google.com/group/wyecast](https://groups.google.com/group/wyecast)

and [groups.google.com/group/wyecast-chat](https://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, please contact Hank H.

## Special Collections for January and February

### January: SISTERS OF THE ROAD

Please join us on January 15th for our monthly Social Justice Special Collection. This month's collection benefits Sisters of the Road, a nonprofit cafe in Portland's Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood, which works to create systemic change that will end poverty and homelessness by providing nourishing meals in a safe, dignified space. Grants Manager Lauren Lubowicki will speak briefly about the organization's relevance to our theme this year of Housing Justice, after which we will have an opportunity to enact the UU principle of "Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations" by supporting the organization financially.

**SISTERS  
OF THE  
ROAD**



[sistersoftheroad.org](http://sistersoftheroad.org)

### February: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - PORTLAND METRO EAST



Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East revitalizes neighborhoods, builds affordable and sustainable homes, and empowers families through successful homeownership. The vision of Habitat is for "a world where everyone has a decent place to live." In addition to their well-known homeownership program, Habitat offers home repair services to low-income homeowners, using the same affordable payment and sweat equity model as a strategy to preserve affordable housing and keep people in their homes. In Northeast Portland, Habitat for Humanity Metro East has been active in broader neighborhood revitalization, anti-displacement efforts, and advocacy for housing justice. The organization is one of the members of the Living Cully coalition, which in 2015 organized and fundraised to purchase a former strip club and turn it into a community center. Living Cully reinterprets sustainability as an anti-poverty strategy by concentrating environmental investments at the neighborhood scale and braiding those investments with traditional community development resources.

Wyeast member Jocelyn shares, "I live on one of the Cully neighborhood's many unpaved roads. In the winter of 2013, the potholes had gotten so bad that I was

awoken one morning by a neighbor knocking on my door: her car had gotten stuck in the mud, and she needed help pushing it out. In 2014, as part of the first Rock the Block event, Habitat organized a group of volunteers from Concordia University and the neighborhood (including my husband, Tom) to fill in all the holes with a massive load of donated gravel. Through people power, Habitat was able to accomplish something quickly and effectively that made a huge, positive difference in our lives. I have gotten to know some of the diverse Habitat homeowners who are my neighbors, and I am always heartened by their stories of resilience and the stability and hope they are finding with the support of their homes."



[habitatportlandmetro.org](http://habitatportlandmetro.org)

## My Heart Fights For Those Who Can't Fight

*By Sara Sutherland Dean*

Someone called me a "bleeding heart liberal." It was not intended as a compliment. However, I will always consider it one of the biggest compliments of my life.

My heart bleeds for the underdog.

My heart fights for those who can't fight.

My heart rejoices in seeing others overcome adversity.

My heart desires love and peace for everyone.

My heart is compassionate and empathetic.

My heart sees pain in others and wants to help.

My heart believes in equality.

My heart sees the good in people.

My heart chooses action over fear.

**About the Author** *Sara Sutherland Dean is the host of the Shameless Mom Academy Podcast and the founder/owner of Sync Fitness in Seattle, WA. Her mission in her work and in life is helping others find their voice and their power. -Reprinted with the author's permission from the UUA website.*

## Treasurer's Report

This year our congregation approved a budget that will finish the year on June 30, 2017 with a deficit of \$8,230. We can absorb the deficit this year in part because we had a large surplus last year, but now that we have a regular half-time minister again, our current level of pledges can't quite cover ongoing expenses.

	FY 16-17 BUDGET	Nov YTD BUDGET	Nov YTD ACTUAL
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 72,840	\$ 33,155	\$ 32,245
Minister expense	\$ 45,765	\$ 19,281	\$ 18,706
Worship	5,130	2,137	1,236
LRE	9,109	3,049	2,252
Community Presence	5,302	2,291	2,791
Org Support (incl rent)	13,255	5,457	5,457
Membership/other	<u>2,500</u>	<u>971</u>	<u>971</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 81,071	\$ 33,185	\$ 30,744
Surplus/(deficit)	(\$ 8,231)	(\$ 30)	\$ 1,500

In the first five months of this year, our finances are running just ahead of budget, with a YTD surplus of \$1500, mostly because expense is under budget in several categories. Our budget expects to run at a surplus for two more months due to seasonally high giving in December and January, then we budget running at a deficit for the rest of the year.

## WhaleCoast Alaska 2017

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2017 is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka, with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships—our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime before our tours sell out!



### We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Tour #1: **National Park Tour** June 10 to 20 \$3,156

Tour #2: **All-Alaska Tour** July 7 to 19 \$3,758

**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, and 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, plane, and boat.

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

Director: Dave Frey, longtime Fairbanks UU

More information: [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org)

Email: [dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org](mailto:dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org)

Address: 675 Gold Vein Road, Fairbanks, AK 99712

Telephone: 907-322-4966

**Hurry! Each tour sells out when 40 guests have registered.**

# Before & After Worship

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## Programming in January & February

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

### January 1

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

### January 8

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Poetry Group** • 12:00 noon

### January 15

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Seniors' Group** • 12:00 noon

### January 22

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.

### January 29

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.



### February 5

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

### February 12

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Poetry Group** • 12:00 noon

### February 19

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Seniors' Group** • 12:00 noon

### February 26

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.

## Sunday Potlucks

Our potlucks are now held on the **first Sunday** — that's January 1st and February 5th. Bring a dish to share.



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., within walking distance of 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.

The **Wy'east POETRY GROUP** welcomes anyone who is interested in poetry, whether or not they are a member of the congregation, to meet with us at noon on the **second Sunday** of every month, noon till one. This is not a class nor is it a writing group. Anyone who comes is welcome to share in reading poems aloud – either poems which they wrote themselves or those of favorite authors. If you prefer, you can just sit and listen! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, you are welcome here.

## January 1 NEW YEAR HYMN SING

At this winter time of the New Year, there is nothing so warm and cozy as a service where we sing hymns together, particularly those that bring us joy and hope for the days ahead. We will have some hymns picked out ourselves for sure, but you might also come with some favorites and requests.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K – 12th 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 8 EPIPHANY: THE STORY OF THE KINGS

Epiphany, or 12th Night as it is sometimes called, is the traditional day to celebrate the Magi visiting the baby Jesus. It falls in early January. Wy'east member, **Rev. Sarah Schurr**, will do an analysis of this ancient nativity story that, believe it or not, sheds some important light on how we are called to speak out in our new post election reality.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m. **Religious Education** (Pre-K – 12th 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 15 ROD, STAFF, AND COMFORT

Martin Luther King spoke with a deep authority that made him America's minister. He touched everyone, whether they agreed or disagreed with him, loved or hated him. No one could ignore his mighty words, used like a shepherd's crook to pull us forward. Let's reflect on those words today as we consider some of the *limits* and *constraints* that make real freedom possible. Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m. **Religious Education** (Pre-K – 12th 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 22 CHRISTIANITY'S FORGOTTEN FIRST CREED

Before the followers of Jesus believed anything about Jesus, they believed something about themselves: they were children of God. Among them, ethnicity, class, and gender would no longer divide and rank. Their creed, long forgotten, was pretty interesting. Talk by **Dr. Stephen Patterson**, a professor of religious and ethical studies at Willamette University.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m. **Religious Education** (Pre-K – 12th 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 29 THE PEOPLE SPEAK

Join us for a Social Justice Panel featuring four members of the Wy'east community sharing how they have been taking action to uphold our 2nd and 5th UU principles. **Betty H.** will discuss her work helping people navigate the oft-challenging Medicare system, **Jon B.** will speak about protecting water, **Judy C.** will share about her work to defend the human rights of refugees and immigrants, and **Mathias Q.** will tell the story behind his grassroots organizing with Democracy Spring to promote voting rights and anti-corruption reforms.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m. **Religious Education** (Pre-K – 12th 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 5 THE FIRST PRINCIPLE

The first Holy Truth of Buddhism is the recognition of the universality of suffering, the realization that *all is ill*. The Buddha said: “It is difficult to shoot arrows through a narrow key hole. It is still more difficult to understand that ‘all this is ill.’ ” Our own first principle—*To affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person*—is also the most difficult one to put into practice. How can we understand it better? Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K – 12th 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 12 POP CULTURE IN TODAY’S MUSLIM WORLD

In 1438 years of history, Muslims developed different forms of entertainment in the various parts of the world in which they have lived. This talk by **Dr. Shatha Almutawa**, an assistant professor of religious studies at Willamette University, looks at contemporary popular culture in Muslim majority countries and the United States, from poetry and fiction to music, television, theater and art. Meet the heartthrobs of Egyptian cinema, the stars of Turkish soap operas, the singers and dancers of Lebanese rock and roll, the superheroes of Bangladeshi comic books, the authors of Saudi Arabian bestsellers, and the spoken word poets of America.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K – 12th 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 19 OPEN DOORS AND TACTICAL GRACE

Religious people often use words about God “opening doors” as a way to speak about divine grace or favor coming their way. But what happens when doors open too wide or too quickly? A passage from the Qur’an will guide this morning’s meditation. Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K – 12th 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 26 HOUSING JUSTICE IN ACTION

**Margot Black**, a dynamic college math teacher and co-founder of Portland Tenants United, will talk on her work organizing local renters against unjust property management practices and for policies to ensure access to affordable housing for all. She’ll share her personal challenges as a mother experiencing housing insecurity, humanizing the issue to motivate others into action. Wy’east supported the work of Portland Tenants United last fall through one of our monthly special collections..

**Service:** 10:30 a.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K – 12th 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.