



# 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 2015

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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!*

## Marcia's Musings

January and February can be rough months. The winter solstice has passed, so the days should be getting longer, and they are, but perhaps not fast enough. The festive Christmas lights that gave some consolation to driving home in the darkness have been packed away for another year. The weather is often cold and wet. The whirlwind of festivities that made December feel like one mad rush are now behind us, and we feel a bit...empty. And for many of us, holiday spending leaves us with additional financial stress.

And there's so much wrong with the world. We may feel overwhelmed with grief over injustice, racism, violence, climate change, and the sense that these are not isolated acts, but the way the system is designed to work.

It's enough to send one into an existential crisis!

But this is where religion—especially liberal religion--comes into play.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Sunday Sermons

1/4	<b>Co-Sustainability and Living with the Land</b>	Randy Woodley
1/11	<b>Where's the Light?</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
1/18	<b>Class Travel: The Socio-Economic Adventure of Our Time</b>	Raz Mason
1/25	<b>What do we talk about when we talk about dying?</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
2/1	<b>This I Believe</b>	Jane Moore
2/8	<b>Drawing from Many Wells: A sermon about our six sources</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
2/15	<b>A Glimpse into the Heart of the World</b>	Kent Nerburn
2/22	<b>Grace, Gratitude, Awe, and Wonder</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard

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

## From the Minister *(Continued)*

Rabbi Michael Lerner said that what religion has to offer the climate justice movement is hope. Some scientists don't have hope, and without hope, it can be difficult to see our way to a solution of any kind. We're tempted to give up. We're already screwed. What's the point?

But Burton Carley writes, "The miracle of Christmas is not that we will be saved from the human condition by a holy intervention, but that within the human condition is the resource of the spirit that provides a resilience while walking through the valley of the shadows. A child is born as if to say that it is through the vulnerability of love that hope is found."

The message of Christmas doesn't end on December 26th. The message of Christmas may well be more important and necessary in the quiet and darkness of January. The message of Christmas doesn't require belief in a virgin birth, or heavenly angels singing. It only requires that we be faithful enough to believe that there is a light in the darkness, that there is reason and cause for hope, whether through a Holy other, or the resilience of the human spirit.

In this time of darkness, and injustice, and even existential crisis, there is cause and need for resiliency. May we send our roots deep, that they give us the strength and flexibility to bend with the storm, drawing up hope, that we may share with others. Blessed be, and Amen.

—*Rev. Marcia*

## 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!

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](mailto:wyeast-worship@googlegroups.com) or talk to Mark A., Amy O., Larry B., or Marcia Stanard.

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

## 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.

**The Wy'east Board generally meets on the second Sunday of the month** at 4:00 pm (sometimes 3:30 or 4:30) 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 email to [wyeast-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:wyeast-board@googlegroups.com). Someone will get back to you with location and exact time. 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](http://www.wyeastuu.org/contact)  
or [groups.google.com/group/wyeast](https://groups.google.com/group/wyeast)  
and [groups.google.com/group/wyeast-chat](https://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 Diane I. or anyone on the Engagement Committee.



## Special Collections for January and February

### January: **CRAG LAW CENTER**

*from their website:* Our Work. To preserve the diverse ecosystems of the Northwest for future generations, Crag ensures equal access to justice by providing our clients with professional legal services for free or as close to free as possible, implementing a unique model of “legal aid for the environment.” In addition to litigation, Crag helps clients with assistance on civic participation, campaign strategies, communications, organizing and media relations. We work to preserve our clean air, clean water, and diverse ecosystems for the benefit of local communities, the fish and wildlife inhabiting these places and future generations. In response to the needs of local communities, the Crag law Center has established three main areas of work. Public Lands. Salmon, Water & Wetlands. Livable communities.

[www.crag.org](http://www.crag.org)



### Wisdom of the Elders

other messages of guidance from indigenous elders in order to regenerate the greatness of culture among today's and future generations of native peoples. As First Peoples, we are humbled by the wisdom of our elders and the deep connection they share with Great Spirit, the world of nature and family. We regard our elders as rapidly vanishing, irreplaceable keepers of oral history, tradition and environment. Wisdom of the Elders acknowledges the need for reconciliation between Indian and non-Indian. As part of its race reconciliation mission, Wisdom of the Elders strives to share with all peoples, using public radio and documentary production, book publishing and other educational venues in collaboration with diverse cultural organizations and educational institutions.

[www.wisdomoftheelders.org](http://www.wisdomoftheelders.org)

### February: **WISDOM OF THE ELDERS**

*from their website:* Wisdom of the Elders, Inc. records and preserves traditional cultural values, oral history, prophesy and

## An Easy Way To Donate to Wy'east

Sarah Schurr here. I am founding member of Wy'east, but I seldom get to come to services because I serve as minister of the West Hills UU Fellowship across town. I usually work Sunday mornings. I wanted to share with you a great new way to donate to Wy'east. It is by making a stock transfer! My husband received some stock from the company he worked for years ago. To sell the stock and use the proceeds to donate, a big chunk of the money would have gone to taxes and the rest would have been left for us to donate. But instead, we just donated the stock! As a non-profit there was no tax, so Wy'east got the total value of the stock, minus a small brokerage fee. Do you have stock sitting around but don't want to deal with selling it? Give it to your religious home. Wy'east does not have a brokerage account, but the UUA does. They will process the gift for you. Just contact their gift processing department at [giftinfo@uua.org](mailto:giftinfo@uua.org).

## Something Positive You Can Do

One of the things I worry about is young people in prison for long periods of time, when they need to understand their actions and get the help they need. **Partnership for Safety and Justice**, a statewide organization, is dealing with this, as well as the effect of crime on victims. We will be going to Salem in March to lobby for changes to measure 11, the law which has required mandatory prison sentences and effectively tied the hands of judges who want to consider all the facts.

PSJ is holding half-day sessions for beginners as well as old hands at lobbying on January 24th and February 21st. We will focus on our legislative agenda and key messages. The January 24th session will be held in Salem and car pools will be going. The February 21st meeting will be here in Portland.

If you are interested in knowing more about PSJ and/or taking action, please see our web site at [www.safetyandjustice.org](http://www.safetyandjustice.org). or call the office at 503-335-8449.

Thanks,  
Judy Cirillo

# UU General Assembly Comes to Portland

Ask any Unitarian Universalist who's been to a General Assembly (GA) and you'll get an enthusiastic answer detailing what parts of this amazing event were his or her favorites. So many people like so many aspects of this annual convention that we can easily ask, "So exactly what IS the purpose of General Assembly?"

One quick check of the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) by-laws [www.uua.org/bylaws](http://www.uua.org/bylaws) tells us that it's any meeting of the Association called by the Board of the UUA pursuant to a number of requirements. Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchey, our association's Secretary, has pointed out a variety of reasons we meet in what is today's GA. These meetings began over 150 years ago, starting with ministers gathering and later adding congregation members and leaders. They have grown to serve numerous purposes, including:

- Gather in worship as one body
- Develop connections to support UUism
- Build connections and relationships: prof, social, talents
- Model: show best and brightest of our tradition
- Discern what's really important for UU to address
- Challenge assumptions and push boundaries
- Congregations see themselves as part of a larger whole
- Demarginalize the marginalized
- Learn how to put faith into action
- Place for small interest groups to meet
- Gain national visibility
- Build leaders
- Do the business of the association



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Portland  
Oregon**

JUNE 24-28  
**2015**



## Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the March/April issue submissions is Thursday, February 12th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. 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>

## New in the UUA Bookstore

### **Southern Witness : Unitarians and Universalists in the Civil Rights Era**

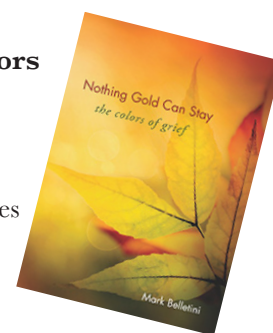
Author: Gordon D. Gibson

An engaging account of the roles that UU individuals and congregations played in the civil rights movement in the South in the 1950s and '60s.

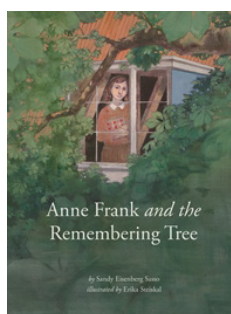
### **Nothing Gold Can Stay : The Colors of Grief**

Author: Mark Belletini

In 22 simple yet profound reflections, seasoned minister Mark Belletini explores the many and varied forms of grief.



### **Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree**



Author: Sandy Eisenberg Sasso  
Illustrator: Erika Steiskal  
A story of Anne Frank and her sister Margot, who loved a tree, and the tree who promised never to forget them. An age-appropriate way to introduce children ages 6–9 to the Jewish Holocaust.

### **Creating Justice Together : Service Projects for Families and Multigenerational Groups**

Editor: Susan Dana Lawrence

Multigenerational service projects from Tapestry of Faith, such as cooking in a homemade solar oven, writing to a soldier serving overseas, and making a welcome kit for a new neighbor.

These books can be ordered at [www.uuabookstore.org](http://www.uuabookstore.org)

# BEFORE & AFTER Worship

## Programming in January & February

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

January 4

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

January 11

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

January 19

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

January 25

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



February 1

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

February 8

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

February 15

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

February 22

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

## Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks will be held on **January 11th** and **February 8th**. Bring a dish to share.



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

4th Sunday of every month. 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.

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP** The Young Adult group meets on the third Sunday of each month. We've been gathering at Panera Bread; they have a 'pay what you can' deal, so finances shouldn't be an issue to prevent people from joining. Like the senior group, we are very flexible on the age range considered "young adult." **Hope to see some of you there!**

THE BOARD WILL MEET on **Sunday, Jan 11**, and **Sunday, Feb 8**, at 4:00 pm at a TBD board member's home. You can ask any board member for the location. (More information on page 2.)

## January 4 CO-SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVING WITH THE LAND

**Randy Woodley** and his family are Native Americans who have recently been displaced from their own homeland, losing everything due to racism and a justice system privileged for Whites. Randy is Distinguished Professor of Faith and Culture and Director of Indigenous and Intercultural Studies at George Fox Seminary. He and his wife Edith teach on land justice, Indigenous spirituality, and co-sustainability (among other things) from their farm in Newberg.

**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 11 WHERE'S THE LIGHT?

Hey, winter solstice was three weeks ago! How come it's still dark? A sermon of comfort, care, and coping strategies, with 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 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 18 CLASS TRAVEL: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADVENTURE OF OUR TIME

Income inequality in the US is at its greatest level since the 1920's, with the top 1% of the population controlling ~40% of the wealth. This disparity creates untold individual challenges, and may threaten the long-term stability of our country. President Obama has called the widening income gap the “defining challenge of our time.” As Unitarian Universalists, our ability to address this reality with thoughtfulness, compassion, and courage may be hampered by our own vagueness and ambivalence about class dynamics. In this sermon, **Raz Mason** offers ways to conceptualize class that invite exploration and add dignity – for people of all socio-economic backgrounds. Raz is a UU ministerial candidate and works as a life coach and educator. She has master's degrees from Seattle University and Harvard Divinity School.

**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 25 WHAT DO WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT DYING?

I was shocked to receive a clergy questionnaire on “End of Life Care” with possible responses like, “I believe it is a sin to not fight illness in any way possible.” As Unitarian Universalists, what values guide our views of death and dying? Service 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 RE. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

**Social Hour:** Join us for refreshments after the service.

## **February 1      THIS I BELIEVE**

As part of our on-going series of This I Believe talks given by Wy'east members, **Jane Moore** will share her journey of mind, body and soul, and evolving beliefs about religion and spirituality. Like many UUs, Jane has traveled a distance from her midwestern Methodist upbringing and is certain the journey is far from over.

**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 8      DRAWING FROM MANY WELLS: A SERMON ABOUT OUR SIX SOURCES**

Most of us are familiar with the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, but who knows what specific sources we claim to draw from? Service 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 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 15      A GLIMPSE INTO THE HEART OF THE WORLD**

Author Kent Nerburn learned from a friend that a story of his had just received 100,000 visits on the friend's website, and that number later surpassed 4 million. The story came from Kent's time as a cab driver when he drove an elderly woman to a hospice, although the hits and emails that followed were almost all from young people. He'll share his reflections on what this experience taught him about kindness, caring, and the dreams of young people today.

**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 22      GRACE, GRATITUDE, AWE, AND WONDER**

**Rev. Marcia Stanard** shares her own spiritual journey with us in this requested service.

**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.