



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

May/June 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...

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

On the street near my children's school are a few houses next to each other that are a real treat to drive by in spring. Lawns are pretty small in this area of Irvington/Sabin, but houses are beautiful and well kept. This particular set of houses almost bursts with bright tulips in various colors—and the occasional patch of daffodils or iris. Besides being irrepressibly cheered whenever I drive past, I am reminded of the old adage, "Bloom where you are planted."

Life doesn't always, or perhaps even usually, turn out exactly as we expect it to. Occasionally, we might get a glimpse of how things might have been, and indulge in a moment of regret or nostalgia. But every crossroads choice we made led us down this particular path in this particular way, and regretting the road not taken isn't going to serve us well in the here and now.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

5/6	The Drama Queens	Community of Welcoming Congregations
5/13	Flower Communion	Rev. Marcia Stanard
5/20	A Year's Worth of Learning	Mark Alter
5/27	Rev. Bill Sinkford	Rev. Bill Sinkford
6/3	The Amazing Grace of Forgiveness	Barbara McCullough-Jones
6/10	To Be Seen. To Be Heard.	Rev. Marcia Stanard
6/17	Gay Pride Parade Sunday	
6/24	Reflections	

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

From the Minister *(Continued)*

Instead, let's look at the ways we can make our own corner of the world bright, especially here at Wy'east. Do you enjoy the work you do here? Many of our committed members give a great deal of time to Wy'east. Hopefully, they are fed by this work in some way. If it's not matching your personality or your passions, there are other opportunities available. Burnout is always a problem in congregations, perhaps especially one like ours where paid staff are in short supply and the vast majority of positions are volunteer. If you're beginning to feel burned out, I encourage you to speak with me—perhaps there are other areas that might be more inspiring to you.

And if you haven't yet found a place you fit in—let's talk about that as well. For many of us, the opportunity to become involved immediately with some basic tasks helped our sense of ownership and belonging at Wy'east. I've spoken with several members who noted that the first experience of helping put away hymnals or set up tables for potluck is what led them to become attached to this beloved community.

In this congregation, and in our broader lives, there is room for all of us to bloom. And, like flowers in a garden, the participation of each of us is needed to create a beautiful whole.

Warmly,
Marcia

MAY 13 – Bring a flower or two for the Flower Communion. You'll then take home a different flower – along with a lesson on our individuality and our beauty and presence together.



Reginald Zottoli wrote “The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful

bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community: it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Thus this service is a statement of our community.”

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 bimonthly. The deadline for the July/August issue submissions is Thursday, June 14th. 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>.

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.

Wy'east Special Collections

HEADS UP

Both the May and the June Special Collections will be on the first Sunday of the month instead of the usual third. That is because we'll be donating our May Special Collection to **The Drama Queens**, who will be presenting the Sunday morning service on May 6th.



On June 3rd, the June Special Collection will be going to the **Q Center of Portland**, because its Executive Director, Barbara McCullough-Jones, will be speaking to us on that day.

A NOTE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM THE OREGON SAFE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES COALITION

Thanks for the inspirational service on April 15th! And thank you so much for your collective generosity. Your contributions will help defray the costs of transportation to and printed materials for workshops and “tabling” events where we let people know how OSSCC can be of service. We also use the money to sponsor support groups for youth whose schools have not organized a Gay-Straight Alliance club.

Yours, *Stephanie McBride*

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 weast-worship@googlegroups.com or talk to Mark A., Brooke C., Amy O., or Marcia S.

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

Social Justice Updates at Wy'east

Following up on Rev. Paul Davis' talk to us on February 19th about his Saturday morning, serving the homeless breakfast program in downtown Portland called St. Stephen's Table, a half a dozen members of Wy'east worked in the kitchen and serving on the morning of March 3rd. And then again on March 24th, eight people from Wy'east participated. A highlight of this program is that the more than one hundred homeless people who come there for breakfast are not just dished out food in a line, but are served at their tables like they were seated in a restaurant. Also, an important part of this is that those same individuals are “companioned” during these three hours on Saturday mornings – sat with, listened to, and related to because as human beings they matter.

Wy'east is now signed up for covering this program once a quarter, and if you're interested in participating, please see Mark Alter. Additionally, there was an exciting breakthrough aspect of this in that on March 24th, we were joined by eight members of First Unitarian Church downtown. Working together with them was great, and we are scheduled to be continuing this cooperation on the quarterly basis as noted above.

A member of Wy'east and her co-worker are also covering an evening group for LGBTQ homeless people downtown, which meets at St. Stephen's.



UU Symbiosis

On May 5 representatives from the local Portland Unitarian Universalist congregations will meet to discuss how we can cooperate with one another for mutual benefit and enjoyment. Some of the ideas that have come forward are:

- A Portland area UU website which describes the unique characteristics of each congregation and a link to individual websites. This is meant to be an aid to people seeking a church which meets their needs.
- Common social justice or environmental projects. Examples of this are the SOLV beach clean up and the breakfast program at St. Stephen's. These were joint project of Wy'east and First Unitarian Church of Portland.
- Common retreats or social occasions. Many of the smaller congregations do not have enough members to be able to offer a retreat, but a retreat opened to several congregations would make this more possible.
- A common Google email group which could be used to communicate events at Portland area UU congregations
- A unified voice on social justice and environmental issues.
- Collaboration on "technical" problems. We all have similar administrative problems. Sharing solutions helps us all.
- Speaker or Service exchange. Wy'east has had guest speakers from other UU congregations and other faiths. We have reciprocated by giving sermons at other congregations.

Please let me know if you have any further ideas.

~Hank H



From the Board

I am currently the treasurer on the board of trustees for Wy'east. When I first came to Wy'east, I didn't know who was on the board or any committee, or exactly what qualified you to be on either. I remember a sense of relief during my first experience voting for board members, that there were just enough candidates for the positions to be filled. Kind of like some of the local county positions where you are asked to vote for no more than 7 and there are only 5 listed on the ballot.

I did not think I was board material. I didn't know that much about Unitarian Universalists or about running a church.

Then I was asked to be on a task force to search for a new minister. I met with an amazing group of people with diverse interests and experiences, and we put aside our personal wants and needs and instead thought about the congregation, working toward finding a minister who would be a good fit for Wy'east. It was energizing, rewarding, and fun—not at all scary or stressful. And the outcome was... well, wonderful. If you believe in it, it was a "match made in heaven;" if not, it was good Karma, fate or destiny, approaching nirvana or paradise, or just a good, logical, pragmatic approach that weighed what Marcia was looking for in a congregation to what Wy'east was looking for in a minister and found the match to be within the acceptable parameters of both. It works for all of these.

Later, when an announcement of the when and where of the next board meeting came with "anyone is welcome to attend," I thought I would go and see what happens in these meetings. Turns out it is again a group of wonderful people, with diverse interests, experience, and points of view who set aside their individual needs to think of what the congregation needs and try to find ways to fill those needs.

So come to a board meeting or a committee meeting, or ask about the many, many opportunities there are to volunteer here at Wy'east. You may have a lot of reasons for thinking you may not want to be on the board or a committee. Come to a meeting first before you rule it out. I'm sure you might have heard it as a child; as a father, I have said it many, many times, "How do you know you don't like it if you don't try it?"

~Dan E.

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in May and June

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

May 6

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

May 13

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

May 20

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

May 27

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



June 3

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

June 10

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

June 17

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

June 24

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

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!

UU Adventures in Eating

Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks are held on the second Sunday of each month, **May 13th** and **June 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.

May

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

May 6 THE DRAMA QUEENS

Come hear this engaging theatrical performance about Transgender issues and identity. Coordinated through the Community of Welcoming Congregations, an interfaith organization dedicated to LGBT equality, this service is performed as reader's theater by actors who read the actual words of transgendered folks. Our special collection for May will be taken on this day in support of their work bringing this service to different congregations throughout Oregon.

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.

May 13 FLOWER COMMUNION

This Mother's Day we celebrate one of our favorite Unitarian Universalist traditions, Flower Communion. Each person is invited to bring a flower or two, and then we'll take home a different flower--along with a lesson on our individuality and our beauty and presence together. 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 class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

May 20 A YEAR'S WORTH OF LEARNING

"Last spring, I participated in two anti-racism dialogue groups, and those taught me not only a lot about race, but about myself," says **Mark Alter**, of this congregation, who will share thoughts from these experiences, and his expanded awareness throughout this last year about race and beyond.

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.

May 27 REV. BILL SINKFORD

Rev. Sinkford is the Senior Minister at First Unitarian Church of Portland, and the immediate past president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. As we respond to the spirit of Janine Larsen's Charge, encouraging more cooperation between UU congregations in the Portland/Vancouver area, we welcome him to our pulpit.

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.

June 3 THE AMAZING GRACE OF FORGIVENESS

From **Barbara McCullough-Jones**, the Executive Director of the Q Center of Portland: “For LGBTQ people just about every issue is both political and personal. Navigating often times hostile environments takes grace, integrity and forgiveness. We will join Barbara along the way in her more than 25 year journey in the LGBTQ movement to uncover/discover the many ways in which we waded through those turbulent waters.”

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.

June 10 TO BE SEEN. TO BE HEARD.

In the Hindu tradition, Gods and Goddesses are represented with large eyes in designs which are recreated each day or week as an act of devotion. In pastoral care, often being deeply listened to is the most important desire of people. What can this tell us about basic human needs? 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 class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

June 17 GAY PRIDE PARADE SUNDAY

As we did in 2011, Wy’east will be participating in the Gay Pride Parade today, and that will be our service. Here are words from Amy O’Brien about her experience. “Last year, we had a great turn out and everyone had a good time. We had a true representation of our membership, with children marching alongside seniors, gays and lesbians marching alongside their straight allies. Personally, I was ‘proud’ indeed to be marching with my congregation, and also elated that my children could see so many people who supported their family. And as we’ve dedicated ourselves to GLBT issues this year, I think this will be a great way to wrap things up.”

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.

June 24 REFLECTIONS

Here we are at the end of June and this Wy’east church year. Where have we been, and where are we going. There are several possible services in the air that could tell this story on both an individual and congregational level. You’ll have to show up on this Sunday and see which one of them materializes.

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.