



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 2015

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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 Minister

By now, most of you have heard that I have been invited to be the candidate for full-time ministry at Atkinson Memorial Church. I am thrilled at the possibility of having one full-time job in one place. My family will be grateful to have me in town more often, and I'm looking forward to new challenges and working with a staff team.

And it is bittersweet. I have truly loved being your minister these last five years. We have done good work together, providing a liberal religious home for folks looking for a neighborhood UU experience. We have fed hungry people, supported homeless families, learned about power and privilege and raised money for countless organizations doing good work in the community. We have eaten and laughed and cried and mourned and sung and worshipped together.

And perhaps most of all, we have loved. Rev. Sarah Schurr told me recently that my legacy may well be that I loved you unconditionally. After wonderful ministry before me that tried to make you more this or more that, Sarah's comment was that I just loved you the way you were, and that that allowed you to rest, and even to thrive. We added 11 new members from March of 2014 to now. We serve many kids in our RE program. We are running out of chairs on Sunday mornings.

The Board is preparing for a ministerial search. Over the next few months, you will take a vote to authorize and select a search committee, who will work on selecting the best minister possible. I have great faith and confidence that you will find a wonderful minister ready to take the next steps with you in your journey.

It has been a blessing to be your minister. I am so very grateful.

Warmly,

Rev. Marcia

Sunday Sermons

5/3	Seize the New	Raz Mason
5/10	Flower Communion	Rev. Marcia Stanard
5/17	Active Hope in the Era of Planetary Crisis	Barbara Ford
5/24	What Has Come Before	Rev. Marcia Stanard
5/31	New City Initiative	Paul Schroeder
6/7	Strength, Service, and Vision	Molli Mitchell
6/14	Gay Pride Parade	
6/21	Life Calls Us On	Rev. Marcia Stanard
6/28	General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship Service (at the Oregon Convention Center)	No service at the HSC

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

RE Wy'Camp

With kids and teachers off for the summer and the weather spectacular here in Portland, Religious Education (RE) gets more laid back in the summer. Each Sunday, we have an adult or two from the congregation plan a fun activity to do with the kids of all ages (2+) over at the awesome space at Wee Works. We call these activities “Wy’Camp” – though they are 30 minutes and occur during the service! Our childcare provider plays with the littlest ones as usual. This gives our regular teachers a break—which makes sense because we often have few kids during the summer, so lesson planning would be difficult. It also gives the opportunity for a wider variety of activities and for adults to be involved and share something cool with our great kids! Favorite traditions include making ice cream and playing cooperative games. We’re looking for volunteers for this summer, so let Anders know if you’re interested!

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 or talk to Paul H., Christina B., Mark A., Amy O., Larry B., or Rev. Marcia.

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

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.”



Providing Feedback about Services

Have you ever wondered how to pass along feedback about a particular service, or our services in general? First of all, if Rev. Marcia was the speaker, you are always encouraged to pass along feedback, either positive or negative, directly to her. Thought it was an excellent sermon that made you think days later? Have a specific theological question you’d like to hear spoken about from the pulpit? Or did a particular sermon seem weak to you? Let Rev. Marcia know—either in person or by email.

For other speakers and comments on the general order of service, you are invited to speak to the Worship Committee, which includes Mark A., Larry B., Amy O., Paul H., Christina B. and Rev. Marcia. The worship committee is also happy to hear suggestions for upcoming speakers—especially if you are interested in doing a service for Wy’east. You are also invited to share feedback on Rev. Marcia and on the congregation’s ministries in general with the Committee on Ministry which includes Tode O., Mary P., Summer B., Diane I. and Michael A. Please know that the Committee on Ministry can’t pass on specific feedback without a name attached, but if you need help delivering feedback to Rev. Marcia, the committee is happy to help.

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 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. Someone will get back to you with location and exact time. Or, you can ask any board member at a Sunday service.

Important Congregational Meetings in May

There's a lot going on at Wy'east these days. Consequently there are three (3!) congregational meetings scheduled for May. Each is on a Sunday at the end of coffee hour.

May 3: Special Congregational Meeting to consider the question of whether we want to initiate a formal search for a replacement for Marcia. As you have probably already heard, Marcia will be leaving us on July 31. We need to consider how we want to move forward. At this meeting we will talk about the available options. If we want to initiate a formal search for a new minister, our bylaws require an 80% supermajority approval at a meeting with a superquorum of 26 members in attendance. Please plan to come to this very important meeting.

May 17: Budget Discussion. Each year, a couple of weeks before the Annual Meeting, we have a congregational conversation to discuss the budget that will be approved at the Annual Meeting. This is when the treasurer—D'On this year—summarizes our financial situation as the current fiscal year ends and presents a draft budget for the next fiscal year for discussion. Based on the discussion at this meeting, D'On may revise the draft budget so that the board can recommend a budget to be voted on at the annual meeting.

May 31: Annual Meeting. Every May we have an Annual Meeting to conduct the business of the congregation. Items on the agenda include election of board members and nominating committee members for the upcoming year, approval of the proposed budget for the upcoming year, approval of the minutes of the meetings of the congregation in the past year, and an annual report of the activities of the congregation. Depending on the outcome of the May 3 meeting we may also be electing members of a ministerial search committee.

Anyone who has been a member of Wy'east for more than 30 days and who has made a contribution of money, material, or labor in the past 15 months is entitled to vote at a congregational meeting. Wy'east's bylaws provide for both voting by absentee ballot and designating a proxy to act on a member's behalf at a meeting. To request an absentee ballot contact Barbara S.-T. To designate someone as your proxy, give them a signed statement prior to the meeting authorizing them to act as your proxy. A member is allowed to serve as proxy for up to 6 other members.

Special Collections for May and June

May: **UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH**

From the website: Connecting and inspiring an active community of UUs for environmental justice, spiritual renewal, and shared reverence for our Earth home.



Vision: We envision a world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for the living Earth are central to the lives of all people. Our purpose is to inspire, facilitate, and support personal, congregational, and denominational practices that honor and sustain Earth and all beings. We affirm and promote the seven principles of the UUA, including: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Although the UU Ministry for Earth has close ties to the UUA, it is a separate not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization with an independent Board of Directors.

uuministryforearth.org

June: **THE PORTLAND HARBOR COMMUNITY COALITION**

From the website: The Portland Harbor Community Coalition (PHCC) is an alliance of Native American, communities of color, immigrant and refugee, environmental justice, and conservation organizations, as well as education institutions, individuals, and others concerned about social and environmental justice. All are invested in the outcome of the Willamette River's Superfund Site cleanup. Environmental Justice (EJ) communities in this case refers to those most disproportionately at risk of negative health impacts from Willamette River contaminants and cleanup, and include those that depend on the river for food, workers, nearby residents, houseless peoples, and others.

ourfutureriver.org



General Assembly Information

Wy'east is allowed two delegates to General Assembly this June 24 - 28. Robyn is one of our delegates and we're looking for another. Delegates attend the business meetings, vote on our behalf, and then report back to the congregation about their experience. To be a delegate you need to be registered for all 4 days since the business meetings, called "general sessions" happen Thursday through Sunday. Go to http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/2015_grid.pdf for a schedule showing when the general sessions meet. (If you are a delegate, your registration fee is tax deductible.)

Also, Wy'east has a scholarship fund for GA attendance. (Thank you to Tode for initiating this.) If you would like to be considered for a partial scholarship to help defray your costs for either full time or one day registration, please give your name to Robyn or Barbara S.-T. by May 15. The amount of the scholarship(s) will depend on how much money is donated and how many people ask.

And a reminder, early registration ends April 30. After that the price goes up. You can still register as late as the actual day you attend.

~Wy'east Board

Soulful Sundown Event in June

Soulful Sundown is a form of UU contemporary worship generally held on a weekend evening and features live music. I have been to a handful and helped to plan one in Portland in the early 2000s which had Alfredo Muro as the musician. The style of music can vary widely but is always a centerpiece. Here is an article that describes these events as "a kind of rock and roll vespers": liberalreligiongetscloud.wordpress.com/2014/02/17/soulful-sundown/

I am helping to plan a Soulful Sundown event as part of the Leaven Community (leaven.org) for Friday 6/19 or Saturday 6/20 (summer solstice weekend.) I would love for Wy'east members and friends to attend. Stay tuned to the Leaven website for a confirmation of the date, time and other details. If anyone is interested in helping to shape this event and get the word out, contact me.

~Jocelyn E., Wy'east member

Upcoming Board Meetings

The Wy'east Board generally meets on the second Sunday of the Month. However, the second Sunday in May is Mother's Day, so instead we will meet on Saturday, May 9, at 10 am. On Sunday, June 14, the meeting will be at 4:00 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.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is June 18th. 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>

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in May & June

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

May 3

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Special Congregational Meeting**

May 10

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

May 17

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Budget Discussion**

May 24

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

May 31

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Annual Meeting**

June 7

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

June 14

- **Gay Pride Parade** (see page 7 for more info)
- **No Potluck**

June 21

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.
- **Seniors Group** • 12:00 noon

June 28

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

Sunday Potlucks

Our potlucks will be held on **May 10th** and **June 21st**.
Bring a dish to share.



POETRY GROUP FOR MAY/JUNE

The poetry group will meet on its regularly scheduled **fourth Sunday** in May and June. 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.

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!

May 3 SEIZE THE NEW

In this time of transition for Wy'east, **Raz Mason** will share tips and techniques from her life coaching practice that apply to both individuals and a congregation facing change. Meeting the future can help us be more graceful in dancing with challenges, and empower us. Raz will discuss big-picture ideas and concrete applications. Raz Mason is a middle school teacher, life coach, and UU ministerial candidate.

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.

May 10 FLOWER COMMUNION

Come celebrate an intergenerational flower communion as we honor mothers, and the diversity of families today. Service by our minister, **Rev. Marcia Stanard**. (*For more information, see box on page 2.*)

There will be no RE, as this is an intergenerational service. Childcare will be available.

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

May 17 ACTIVE HOPE IN THE ERA OF PLANETARY CRISIS

How do we stay present and available to our world, in the face of planetary crisis and injustice? The interconnected ideas of deep ecology, Buddhist philosophy, and systems theory combine to offer some beautiful and creative practices that can support us as we weather the storm of climate chaos and political stagnation. Offered by **Barbara Ford**, past president of the national UU Ministry for Earth, workshop facilitator, artist, and singer.

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.

May 24 WHAT HAS COME BEFORE

As Rev. Marcia prepares to leave us, she reflects back on the history of Wy'east and what we've accomplished 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 RE. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

May 31 NEW CITY INITIATIVE

Paul Schroeder from the New City Initiative comes to speak to us about the Village Support Network and the broader problem of family homelessness in Portland.

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.

June 7 STRENGTH, SERVICE, AND VISION

Molli Mitchell, MSW has worked with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, adjudicated youth, and families with seriously ill children, which has informed her vision of caring and just communities. She's also the Justice & Witness chair for her church, Bridgeport UCC, and a member of Standing Up for Racial Justice. All of which has her ask questions such as "How does one live faithfully in response to injustice?", which she will explore with us.

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.

June 14 GAY PRIDE PARADE SUNDAY

As Wy'east has done for the last four years, we'll be joining the Gay Pride Parade as a congregation and be connecting with other UU congregations from our area to march in the parade as one group. Please check your emails and our website for further information about where and when to meet. For folks who can't make it to the parade, we'll also have a small circles gathering at the Senior Center at 10:30 AM as usual to talk about the difference that LGBTQ rights have made in all our lives.

June 21 LIFE CALLS US ON

What's around the next bend? What do we have to look forward to, and what role does visioning play in that process? 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 Wy'camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

June 28 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

On this day, everyone from Wy'east is invited to attend the **Sunday morning worship service of the UUA General Assembly at the Oregon Convention Center**, 777 NE MLK, Jr Blvd, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. As our minister Marcia says, there is nothing quite like being in a service with several thousand other UUs from around the country, singing hymns and creating sacred space together. This GA event is free and open to the public.

There will be no Wy'east presence at the Senior Center on June 28th.