



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

September/October 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

I'm writing this column from a beautiful garden on Whidbey Island where my partner and I are enjoying a "grown-up" vacation. Between the two of us, we have four children, and, as much as we enjoy doing fun things with them, it's very nice to have some quiet grown-up time.

I understand that need for quiet, grown-up time. I think for families in our culture, with busy, often over-scheduled lives, that need for quiet reflection is very important. I understand that for many of us, church is that time where we can enjoy some music, some singing, some (hopefully) inspirational words, and a deep sense of community. Unfortunately, because most of us want this experience each week, we've haven't had enough volunteer teachers for our children.

Wy'east has chosen to solve the issue of not enough volunteers by paying teachers to work with our children. In many ways, it's a great system. Ashley, Shayna, and Johanna are dedicated professionals who give our children a safe, enriching and consistent presence. Last year Anders L. and Holly O. volunteered from our congregation and provided the same thing to our middle-grade children, and Anders is continuing for his fifth year! But in conversations with Alex, the chair of the Religious Education Committee, teachers and parents, it seems clear that some changes may help our program be more consistent across grade levels, and better respond to the fluctuating attendance in our RE program.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

9/2	The New Year of Religious Education at Wy'east	Shayna Collins & Ashley McAllister
9/9	Homecoming Sunday	Rev. Marcia Stanard
9/16	Allies for Diversity	Dr. James Mason, PhD
9/23	Dignity	Rev. Marcia Stanard
9/30	Journeys in Courage	Barbara Ross
10/7	Practicing Radical Hospitality	Beth Poteet
10/14	Compassion	Rev. Marcia Stanard
10/21	Multigenerational Storytelling	Wy'east
10/28	Embodied Spirituality	Rev. Marcia Stanard

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

From the Minister *(Continued)*

In an effort to give every teacher and child a beautiful space to be in, we're going to move the middle grade kids back to Wee Works. We believe that better planning will make the groups more able to work harmoniously together. Amy O. returned from General Assembly in Phoenix very excited about a new curriculum revolving around stories. I will be designing a curriculum that works with our seven principles, stories from different faith traditions, history, and picture books, and involves going deeply into a few stories each month that link up with one of our Unitarian Universalist principles – offering different activities including art, science, and music for different age levels. This will allow our teachers to work together with the ebb and flow of children each week, consolidating groups as appropriate.

This “theme” idea will also allow more integration between my sermons, children's time, and what's going on in Religious Education, giving me more of a consistent framework for choosing sermon topics and material for “time for all ages.” The idea is to have more intentionality and consistency in our worship services for people of all ages.

Even though our children are well served by our current paid and volunteer teachers, we can always use volunteers as classroom aides. Please talk to Alex R. if this is something you're interested in!

Warmly,
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 September 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., Randy D. or Marcia S.

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

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 September/October issue submissions is Thursday, October 18th. Please put this date on your calendar, and send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to: weast-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://weastuu.org/newsletter> .

Wy'east has a new office!

We are now renting space from Rose City Park Presbyterian Church at 45th and Sandy, just 5 blocks up the street from Wy'east! Rev. Marcia will use this office to meet with congregants, so if you'd like to meet with her, please contact her to set up at time.

Wy'east Special Collections

September: **RACE TALKS**



On the second Tuesday night of every month for the last year and a half, there has been a crucial conversation happening in NE Portland at McMenemy's Kennedy School. This is Race Talks, which brings together speakers from a different community each month with an audience sometimes in the hundreds, that then breaks up into small groups with facilitators, to deepen the dialogue about some aspect of race. Donna Maxey will be with us on September 16th to share a few words about her program.

October: **OREGON NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT**



The Oregon New Sanctuary Movement (ONSM) is an interfaith coalition of individuals, faith leaders and congregations, called by our faith and conscience to respond actively and publicly to the suffering of our immigrant brothers and sisters residing in the United States.

We are committed to lifting up the voices of our immigrant brothers and sisters, working for just and humane immigration reform, and the transformation of the social and economic systems that perpetuate the poverty in immigrants' home countries that drives much of the migration to the US. We also seek ways to build relationships of solidarity between faith community members and immigrants – relationships that have the power to change hearts and minds and transform our communities.

Our work consists of providing prophetic hospitality to immigrant families affected by immigration enforcement, our *Love Has No Borders Campaign* to take action for immigrant justice, and leading transformational educational and leadership opportunities for our volunteers.

Social Justice Update

Last spring, Wy'east voted to have our social justice theme for this year be race, and beginning with September what that means is having a speaker every other month on the subject, and having our monthly Special Collections go to local organizations that are doing good work in this area. We are also open to taking on a project or two in the community with race as the focus. If you have suggestions about speakers, organizations, or projects, please see Mark.

Correspondence

This is something Ben Price, our speaker on July 15th, sent out to his support network:

Good news! I want to inform you of a phone call I received today. This was from someone who can and will directly benefit from the passing of HB 3376 - the second chance bill. A local church asked me to "tell my inspirational story" for their service this past weekend, which then generated some inquiry about the new law. The call I received was from a gentleman who has been sober for 27 years; his nonperson, class-B felony was committed previous to his becoming sober; and he's had no subsequent arrests. He contacted me after a friend of his heard my talk. The longer he and I spoke, it became clear to me that he, like myself, had aspirations beyond the limitations of a "conviction branding" that had come to be counterproductive years earlier. As a result of the new law, I actually received his call between my Criminal Justice courses at PCC. I'll graduate next summer. I intend to start applying for Police Officer positions in late October of this year. Thought you'd enjoy an update on your fantastic work! (This was just one story - I have others.) With sincere gratitude, Ben Price.

From Kristen Spurkland, of the House of Dreams no-kill cat shelter (our September Special Collection recipient):

That's wonderful. \$250 buys a lot of cat food. I really enjoyed the service yesterday, you have a very nice community there. When I got home, I checked out the UUA website. What a wonderful way of being in the world! I really appreciate what the church stands for.

Correspondence *(continued)*

Here's a note of appreciation from Betsy:

A Little Note of Thanks to our congregation for all your help and support during the three months while Raul was recuperating from surgery. Lots of driving to doctors and to get plenty of groceries, many signed cards, and—you name it!

And a related notice:

Marcia has asked me, Diane Hogan, to head up our Cares and Concerns Committee. Some members of the Seniors Group are joining me in doing this. This group is made up of the following members of the congregation: Ardis, Mabel, Randy, Mary B., Mary P., Hank, Betty, Linda, Marylyn, Diane H., Diane I., Larry, Mark, Roseanne, Barbara R., Barbara S., Steve, Karla, and Carol.

If you know of anyone you would like remembered with a card, or if you or someone you know in the congregation has a situation where assistance is needed, such as a ride, help with grocery shopping, etc., please tell one of the Cares and Concerns members.

From the Board

We have been through a summer of change at Wy'east. Summer has always been the time when new board members are welcomed and planning for the year ahead begins. The board is delighted to have Robyn K. and Kate M. adding their voices and experience to the Wy'east board.

This summer, we took on a few more challenges, and with the help of many dedicated members we achieved a lot in just a couple months.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS – We have a new, more permanent mailing address for our congregation. This will help us consistently keep in touch with the postal service as our service and office needs change. Here is our new address:

Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation
3439 NE Sandy Blvd # 368
Portland, OR 97232

NEW OFFICE – Marcia was able to procure a new office space at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, located at 1907 NE 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97213, not far from the Hollywood Senior Center.

We thank Amy E. for hosting our office in her home since we moved from Waverly. Her generosity was a blessing – having no office outside of the HSC would have been an administrative hardship. Beyond having a space for some of

our important documents, this new office will be available for Marcia to have meetings with congregants, and will also provide opportunities for Wy'east to utilize their chapel and library for group meetings. Moving the office was a challenge. Big thanks go to Betty, Liana, and Hank for weeding through all the stuff at the office so it was easier to move. Another big thanks to Sharai, Dan, Marcia, and Katie for moving everything!

A NEW BANK – We are transitioning our bank account from US Bank to Consolidated Community Credit Union (consolidatedccu.com). Beyond patronizing a local financial institution, CCCU will be very accommodating to how our needs change from year to year.

A big thanks to all our volunteers and community members that have helped continue our journey as the Wy'east congregation!

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., Kate M., and Robyn K.) on Sundays at church.



Water Communion Sunday, September 9

Remember to bring your container of water!

From the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations website (www.uua.org):

The Water Communion, also sometimes called Water Ceremony, was first used at a Unitarian Universalist (UU) worship service in the 1980s. Many UU congregations now hold a Water Communion once a year, often at the beginning of the new church year (September).

Members bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the appointed time in the service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources. It is often then blessed by the congregation, and sometimes is later boiled and used as the congregation's "holy water" in child dedication ceremonies and similar events.

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in September & October

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

September 2

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

September 9

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

September 16

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

September 23

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

September 30

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am



October 7

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

October 14

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.
- **Path to Membership class** • 12:00 noon.
Contact Marcia for more information

October 21

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

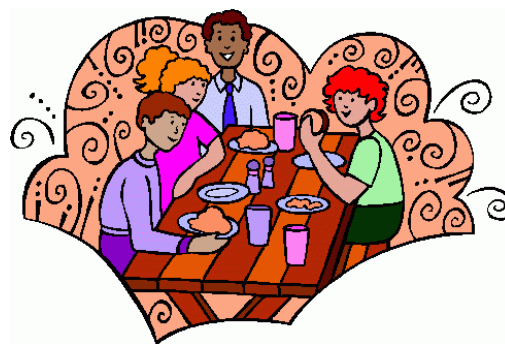
October 28

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am
- **Path to Membership class** • 12:00 noon.
Contact Marcia for more information

UU Adventures in Eating

Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks are held on the second Sunday of each month, **September 9th** and **October 14th** 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.

September 2 THE NEW YEAR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT WY'EAST

What will children at Wy'east be doing on Sundays this year after we sing them out from the worship service? Come hear **Shayna Collins** and **Ashley McAllister**, the teachers in our Religious Education program, share with us the importance of RE, what an average Sunday looks like for the kids who attend our church, and what the new curricula are that will be being used for this church year.

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.

September 9 HOMECOMING SUNDAY / WATER COMMUNION

Welcome back to Wy'east! That sounds a little silly, because many of us haven't been away, but this Sunday, we celebrate the beginning of the school year and the return to our regular Religious Education classes after a summer of Wy'camp. We also celebrate Water Communion, and encourage you to bring water representing some place or state of mind you've been to this summer. 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.

September 16 ALLIES FOR DIVERSITY

The first speaker of the year on race, our social justice focus for 2012-13, is **Dr. James Mason**, PhD, Executive Director of Culturally Competent Caregiving at Providence Health and Services. His interactive presentation will include looking at using privilege on behalf of others; when saying sorry sometimes isn't enough; and instead of feeling guilty, becoming advocates instead.

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.

September 23 DIGNITY

Examples of quiet dignity abound. Today, we'll hear stories of resilience, courage, and strength of character. 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.

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

Our first principle:
The inherent *worth* and
dignity of every person

September 30 JOURNEYS IN COURAGE

When we see homeless people on the street, we often wonder what their lives are like, and how did they end up this way? **Barbara Ross**, of Wy'east, will share with us the life journeys of three of these folks, who had spent many years without a place to call home, and whom she came to know well. They all faced suffering, had to muster the courage to face the challenges before them, and are now in stable housing, making steady progress toward more fruitful lives.

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.

October 7 PRACTICING RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Beth Poteet, from Oregon New Sanctuary Movement, will speak.

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.

October 14 COMPASSION

The Dalai Lama says, “If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.” Today, we’ll look at compassion. 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.

October 21 MULTIGENERATIONAL STORYTELLING

Come join us for a multigenerational storytelling service. The children will share a story illustrating what they have learned so far in their Religious Education classes this fall. Guest speakers will return the favor with inspirational stories of their own.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children will stay for this multigenerational service, so there will be no RE. Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

October 28 EMBODIED SPIRITUALITY

Sometimes it’s easier to see compassion as something directed towards others. But what happens if we direct compassion towards ourselves? Today’s sermon specifically looks at body image. Instead of seeing our bodies as things to be changed or fought against, perhaps we could simply, in the words of Mary Oliver, “let the soft animal of (our) body love what it loves.”

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.

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

Our second principle:

Justice, equity
and *compassion*
in human relations