



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

September/October 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

It's September, the start of a new school year for students and parents and a new worship calendar here at Wy'east. Each September the first Sunday comes just before Labor Day. I often say that worship is best understood as a form of transformative *play*, but of course there is *labor* involved in preparing for it! Our Worship Team has been working on a change in our order of service, hoping to make it “work” even more effectively.

Here's what we'd like to try. Instead of moving immediately from the sermon (or other presentation) to the closing elements of the service, we would like to pause for a few moments of silent meditation. Next will come Joys and Sorrows, followed by our closing hymn, chalice extinguishing, and closing words. It's more of a gradual “tapering off” than an abrupt end.

(Continued on page 2)

SUNDAY SERMONS

9/3	After Babel: In Search of the Lost Arc	Rev. Craig Moro
9/10	Water Communion	Linda Macpherson
9/17	Church, State, and Covenant	Rev. Craig Moro
9/24	Count Her In: Contributions, Challenges, and Change	Emily Evans
10/1	Judges 9...With Zombies!	Rev. Craig Moro
10/8	Black Lives of UU: Racial Justice Teach-In Service	Wy'east community members
10/15	Harry Potter and the Secret System	Rev. Craig Moro
10/22	Farming as Activism	Shari Sirkin
10/29	Trick, or Treat?	Wy'east participants

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

Written Offerings

(Continued from page 1) Sharing Joys and Sorrows after the sermon/presentation offers several advantages. It allows presenters to know with more certainty when they will start and finish. (This might prove especially helpful for those with disabilities or special health needs.) It also allows service planners—presenters, musicians, and worship associates—to set a clear tone for the service. Understandably, some news shared during Joys and Sorrows turns our attention away from the service and towards the person who has shared it. We want to offer comfort, laugh or cry with them, right now! If such sharing takes place closer to the end of the service, we will be able to offer a listening ear and a comforting hand much sooner while the memory of what was shared is fresh in our hearts.

Finally, Joys and Sorrows near the end of a service means that newcomers and “old-timers” have already shared something together, something meaningful. Even first-time visitors might feel moved to light a candle, instead of listening shyly while those who “know the drill” step up to speak. That’s our hope, anyway. In the spirit of *play* we want to toss this ball out, run with it for a while, and see how it *works*. We’d also love to hear what you think. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me or any member of the Worship Team (Linda Macpherson, Paul Henerlau, or Emé Alter.)

In faith and fellowship,

Craig Moro

[Rev. Moro can be reached by email, minster@wyeastuu.org or by phone at 503-851-4757, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Email is usually best.]

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.

Wy’east Board Meetings

The board meets on the **second Tuesday** of the month, so the upcoming meetings are **September 12th** and **October 10th**, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. We meet at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church (1907 NE 45th Ave.), either in the library or the conference room next to our office.

If you are planning to come to the meeting be sure to let a board member know so that we can make sure someone monitors the door to let you in.

Newsletter News

The Wy’east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is October 19th. 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/>.

Special Collections for September & October

September: **ADVOCACY5**



Advocacy5 was created in February 2016 with the mission to help the most vulnerable women and children suffering from domestic violence as well as homelessness. We rely on volunteers only, with funding

coming from neighborhood grants, individual donations, and fundraising activities put on by our volunteers. Every penny of the \$20,000 gathered in this manner during the organization’s first year went for rent and food assistance, temporary housing for those with medical issues, and gear for outdoor living; we also provide monthly public transportation

fares and personal transportation to and from social service connections. Advocacy5 has served weekly meals at the all-women's shelter in SE Portland for over 9 months now and is also involved with the Village Coalition work being done to establish small villages around our city – at Kenton Women's Village, Hazelnet Grove, and Right to Dream Too (R2D2). We're proud to be serving alongside other grassroots organizations doing this work and participating in funding these important initiatives. Look for our website coming soon! www.advocacy5.com

October: THE COALITION OF ADVOCATES FOR EQUAL ACCESS FOR GIRLS

The Coalition's mission is *to ensure that girls receive equal access to all of the appropriate gender-specific support they need to help them develop to their full potential.* We act as a state level advocate for girls, an education and information resource, and a network for members committed to helping girls succeed. The Coalition also advocates for and educates others about all girls 9-19 years of age, especially those who are at risk for endangerment and disconnection. We envision an Oregon in which state and local agencies provide gender equity in all services; respond to the needs of girls at-risk with gender-responsive and culturally-specific services; and play an active role in the effort for social change in the conditions – abuse, oppression and violence – in which many girls and young women live.

www.equalaccessforgirls.org



Special Workshops: “How to Build a Good Front Porch”

A good front porch speech, that is! Former UUA President Bill Sinkford challenged each and every one of us to develop our own “elevator” or “front porch” speech—something you could say in just a few words to express what you mean by *Unitarian Universalist*, and invite further conversation. Can you do it now? Would you like to do it better? Come today and

gather all the “building materials” you will need. Refreshments will be provided (but you won't need leather gloves!)

This workshop is the first of a series intended to help us get clear about who we are and what we want, both for our church and for the world we share with others—our vision and our mission. The “front porch speech” is a very good place to start before going in deeper, and then moving forward!

Saturday, September 30, 9:30 a.m.

Rose City Park Presbyterian Church – The church is located at **1907 NE 45th Avenue**, just blocks from the Senior Center. Please use the ramped entrance near the church office.

We'll repeat the same workshop on **Wednesday, October 11, 7 p.m.**

Beyond the Threshold— Becoming a member of Wy'east UU Congregation

1952's *Ikiru* (To Live) has stood the test of time. Directed by Akira Kurosawa, it stars the great Takashi Shimura as a minor Tokyo civil servant who, after living life disinterestedly for many years, learns that he is terminally ill. Now he wonders: how can I learn to really live? He quits his job to search for an answer, but finds that each path he tries leads to a dead-end. Then to everyone's surprise he returns to work, approaching it in a new way, with commitment and passion, dedicating himself to building a children's park in a bleak urban neighborhood.

What has changed? He has decided to cross the threshold of his life and really go “inside,” where he finds something much bigger than the front porch where he had waited for so long.

On **September 17**, after the Sunday service, all friends of Wy'east who wish to come further inside and help us build a bigger home are welcome to join Rev. Moro and our Membership team to talk about what new experiences may be waiting beyond the threshold.

Interdependence Day at Wy'east

On July 2nd, Wy'east celebrated Interdependence Day at our annual picnic. By way of planting seeds, here is a little context.

The first Interdependence Day was September 12, 2003. It was hosted by the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. Hundreds of people participated. The activities of September 12th asserted an intention to renew our connectedness with the rest of the world, while leaving September 11th open for remembering and mourning the bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

My limited research reveals that the 7th Interdependence Day was organized as a conference in Istanbul, Turkey. The theme was "The World Is My Family." Many young people attended. The emphasis was on cooperation across national boundaries. Kevin Smiley received the Interdependence Day Prize.

By 2016, Interdependence Day seems to have transformed into the (first annual) Global Parliament



of Mayors in The Hague, The Netherlands. Portland's mayor, Charlie Hales, attended. With many common problems and a high percentage of the world's population, cities are strategically positioned to respond to important issues such as climate change.

The observance of Interdependence Day now is a matter of consciousness and creativity. On July 1, 2017, Northampton, Massachusetts hosted "The World We Love Interdependence Day Celebration" with giant puppets and street theater. The next day Wy'east hosted games, wove our Unitarian Universalist Principles into landscape tapestries, and enjoyed a potluck feast.

Thanks to Jon, Karla, Mathias, Linda F., Diana S., Lana and Linda B. for wonderfully manifesting Wy'east's interdependence.

~Jon B.

Before & After Worship

Programming in September & October

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

September 3

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share.
- **Youth Discussion** • 11:40, in the classroom

September 10

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

September 17

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Seniors' Group** • 12:00 noon
- **Membership discussion** (see page 3)

September 24

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.



October 1

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share.
- **Youth Discussion** • 11:40, in the classroom

October 8

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

October 15

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

October 22

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.

October 29

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY POTLUCKS

Monthly potlucks are held on the **first Sunday: September 3rd and October 1st**. Bring a dish to share.



YOUTH DISCUSSION - On each potluck Sunday, the Religious Education committee invites any interested youth (grades 6-12) to get together after the worship and discuss that week's sermon. We'll get our lunch and then meet and eat in the classroom.

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.

September 3 AFTER BABEL: IN SEARCH OF THE LOST ARC

Yes, that's "arc" with a c! Hundreds, if not thousands, of books have promised to reveal mysterious Bible secrets to generations of eager readers. For this Labor Day sermon, I'll share what I've discovered in the ruins of what we might call the very first "public works project": the Tower of Babel. 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.

September 10 WATER COMMUNION

This service is our annual ingathering as we start the beginning of the new church year. Please bring a small amount of water that represents water that was important to you this summer: water from somewhere you traveled or from your own backyard, Join us for this annual service that celebrates the blessings of clean and safe water! This will be an All Ages Service! Led by **Linda Macpherson**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

September 17 CHURCH, STATE, AND COVENANT

The world's oldest constitution that is still in effect today was (mostly) written by a Unitarian, seven years before the U.S. Constitution was ratified. It's built on something older still: the ancient practice of covenant-making. Let's explore these deep foundations as we celebrate our Constitution's 230th anniversary! 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.

September 24 COUNT HER IN: CONTRIBUTIONS, CHALLENGES, AND CHANGE

Emily Evans, the first Executive Director of the Women's Foundation of Oregon, will speak on the current realities for women and girls in Oregon. based on the Foundation's recent comprehensive report. Emily will share data, stories, and a set of simple things every Oregonian can do to make the state a better place for women and girls.

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.

October 1 JUDGES 9...WITH ZOMBIES!

A sermon to start the month that ends with Halloween! Whatever you think you hear this morning, I promise that it has nothing to do with our current national situation or last year's elections. Cross my heart and hope to die—then rise again... 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.

October 8 BLACK LIVES OF UU: RACIAL JUSTICE TEACH-IN SERVICE

Join us for this next phase in our collective process, as Wy'easters and as UUs, of working to better enact our principles of interconnectedness and social justice. Guided by resources generated by the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism collective, we'll examine, in a searching and unapologetic manner, our complicity in white supremacy culture. We'll plan out how to hold ourselves accountable for action at the both the individual and congregational level. And we'll build collective motivation for the hands-on work ahead. Worship will be planned and guided by **Wy'east community members**.

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.

October 15 HARRY POTTER AND THE SECRET SYSTEM

Confucian scholar Wang Gen (1483-1541) said: "The human mind is fundamentally spontaneously joyous. [Trouble comes] when it becomes tied up with selfish desires. As soon as selfish desires sprout, it wipes them away, and the human mind is joyous as before. Joy is joy in this learning. Learning is learning this joy." I hope you will enjoy hearing today what this has to do with how a young wizard has helped me to enjoy learning Spanish. 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.

October 22 FARMING AS ACTIVISM

Want to do your part to make the world a better place? You can volunteer for a cause, give money to an organization, or join in a march. **Shari Sirkin** chose to grab a hoe, spread some compost and grow some vegetables. Shari is a small farmer and the Executive Director of Friends of Family Farmers.

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.

October 29 TRICK, OR TREAT?

If you were to go up to someone's front porch, knock on their door, and try to describe in just a few words what your "religion" is all about, what would you say? Would it be tricky and complex or a real treat to hear? Trick, or treat? **Wy'east participants** in our "How to Build a Good Front Porch" workshop (see page 3) will share their thoughts this morning.

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.