



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 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 Board

WY'EAST IS IN A TIME OF LETTING GO, OF SAYING GOODBYE, AND OF WELCOMING IN THE NEW. As we began our 2015-2016 church year we welcomed two new board members, Jane Moore and Paul Hennerlau, and said thank you to Diane Ingle and Nancy Drury, who finished their terms serving on the board.

The board's role in our ministerial transition is one of support; many of the tasks that our minister completed for us we now have to take on as a congregation. The board acts as the primary point of contact for outside folks, and board members step up to take on more of the day-to-day operating tasks at Wy'east. Many other individuals and committees help with this work, and I'd like to share my gratitude for all of those who are putting in extra time to keep Wy'east running smoothly.

Wy'east is pleased to welcome Rev. Barbara Stevens and Rev. Mark Gallagher as regular speakers in our pulpit. Barbara Stevens will also be providing us with Pastoral Care during our ministerial search.

If you're asking yourself what comes next for Wy'east, you are not alone! As the Search Committee puts together our search packet, we'll all be called on to think about what we are seeking from a new minister and from our religious community. We will spend some time in consideration over the next few months so we can decide together what the future looks like.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

9/6	Water Communion	Amy O'Brien
9/13	Check Your Baggage	Rev. Mark Gallagher
9/20	Moving Forward, Moving On	Rev. Barbara Stevens
9/27	A Service Celebrating Words, Song and Dance	Wy'east poets and musicians
10/4	Listening with Our Entire Being	Rev. Barbara Stevens
10/11	A Godly Atheism	Rev. Mark Gallagher
10/18	Laughter and Pain and Grace and Children and Giggling and Other Forms of Prayer	Brian Doyle
10/25	Black Kids Matter	Jo Ann Hardesty

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

From the Board (Continued from page 1)

If you want to contact the board with questions or suggestions, you can email us at wyeast-board@googlegroups.com, or contact us individually at church on Sunday or via our emails listed in the directory.

In the words of Winston Churchill, “There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction.” I look forward to choosing a direction with all of you.

In community,

Robyn Klopp,
Board Moderator

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., Paul S., Mark A., Amy O., or Larry B.

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

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is October 15th. 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>

Introducing...

Rev. Barbara Stevens

Hello. I am pleased to have been asked, along with Rev. Mark Gallagher, to fill your pulpit once a month while you search for a new minister. Additionally, I have been asked to provide pastoral care as needed. I look forward for this opportunity to get to know you some.

I have been a behavioral health chaplain, working on Providence Hospital's addiction unit, and a consulting minister at Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship. Now I lead a church for people in recovery and have a private practice as a spiritual counselor. In the past, I was a stay-at-home mom, a massage therapist, a nurse's aide, and a musician.

At the age of 18, I moved to Oregon from New Jersey, landing in Eugene where I met my husband, David, when I moved into the communal household where he was living. We moved to Portland during the 1980s. We have two children, aged 27 and 22. I like taking walks, working in the garden, playing board games, and hanging out with friends and family.

Rev. Mark Gallagher

Greetings, Wy'easters! In this year of finding a new half-time minister I have been engaged (along with Rev. Barbara Stevens) to fill the pulpit once a month, to help provide some continuity. This is far from being your called minister, or even your quarter-time consulting minister, and yet it is much more than just speaking one Sunday. So, I've been asked to introduce myself.

I have just completed a twenty-one year settled ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver, just across the river. Now free of the responsibilities of pastoring a church, I am cultivating a free-lance ministry of preaching, teaching, and writing – an exciting creative endeavor.

A bit of background on myself: I was raised in Chicago and most of my family is still there. Graduate of Starr King School for Ministry in Berkeley. Served churches in Reno, NV; Auburn, CA; Marysville, WA and Vancouver. Many years of Buddhist study and practice; essentially Buddhist worldview. Developing a theology of the Great Mystery. Married to Jennifer and step-father to 19 and 15 year olds. Looking forward to refining and sharing some of my favorite reflections with you. See you soon...

Minister Search Underway

The Wy'east Ministerial Search Committee is heading into September with some good plans to select a minister in a thoughtful but expeditious process.

The Committee held three formal meetings this summer, including a day-long retreat. We've also spoken with Rev. Barbara Stevens and several staff members at the UUA's Pacific NW District office regarding our committee's procedures and preparing to engage with prospective applicants. We have educated ourselves, clarified our roles within our committee, and we're ready to go public with the search process.

Part of our work involves obtaining more information from Wy'east's members and friends about your thoughts, ideas, and visions for Wy'east. We are preparing an electronic survey of Wy'east members and friends. Please look for it soon and respond.

We are also planning four (4) focus group meetings where people can share their thoughts in person:

Sunday, September 13 and **Sunday, September 20**. These will be at the Hollywood Senior Center immediately after the service (about 11:45 - 1:15pm).

Wednesday, September 9 and **Thursday, September 24**. These meetings will take place from 6:30 - 8 pm in the meeting room of the Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, 1907 NE 45th Ave., just down the street from the HSC.

Please attend one of these meetings to share your thoughts! This is your opportunity to chime in and guide us through finding the best fit in a new minister.

We will continue to provide updates on the search, consistent with the need for confidentiality in reviewing and interviewing candidates. Thank you for your trust, your input, and your patience.

In community,

Karl A., Secretary, Wy'east Ministerial Search Committee
Lana A., Committee Chair
Hank H., Treasurer
Amy O., Survey Coordinator
Paul S., Hospitality Coordinator

Wy'east Religious Education

Please join me in welcoming our new Director of Religious Education, **Sonrisa Alter!** She's a recent college graduate, a lifelong UU with national youth leadership experience, and has worked in various school settings in the last couple of years. Sonrisa will be coordinating curriculum and supplies for all our classes, and teaching our youngest group, grades PreK-2.

Tode O. will be teaching kids grades 3-6 with someone to be named after the newsletter deadline, doing a curriculum about UUs throughout history.

Anders L. and Lynn T. will be teaching our junior high class this year. We'll be working through the *Coming of Age* curriculum. That curriculum includes a part where we have each youth pair up with an adult mentor, so be prepared for me or a youth to come ask if you'd be a mentor to them. The students will think about big theological questions and take a stab at writing down what they believe.

-Anders

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 Thursday of the Month. Our next two meetings are on September 10 and October 8 at 6:30 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.

Special Collections for September and October

September: **HANDS IN NEPAL**



Mission statement:

To build schools in the most rural regions of Nepal, emphasizing bathroom facilities at each school to

promote the education of girls and therefore advancing literacy and vocational training programs to empower underprivileged children for a better future for themselves, their families and for the country of Nepal. We feel by helping Nepal achieve a better standard of living for the poor, we can decrease problems associated with poverty-stricken countries, including terrorism and extreme fundamentalism, and child-trafficking. In addition, HANDS hopes to expand our program from school building to providing a safe house where girls can live while receiving an education and provide vocational training and assistance for a cooperative business that sustains them. We also seek to support scholarship programs that will enable orphans to stay in school and receive an education to help them progress into jobs. www.handsinnepal.org

October: **THE GATEWAY CENTER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES**



Last year, 21,000 children in Multnomah County were exposed to domestic violence. These children are more likely than their peers to be

physically or sexually abused by a parent or be unintended victims of physical assault. In response to this tragic reality, The Gateway Center strives to prevent and reduce the impact of intimate partner violence and its subsequent trauma by providing comprehensive, survivor-centered advocacy and services within a welcoming and culturally sensitive environment. They prioritize survivors' safety, promote survivors' rights and support survivors' desires to be free from violence and abuse.

www.portlandoregon.gov/gatewaycenter

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.

New Social Justice Committee

We have a redesigned Wy'east Social Justice Committee, with new responsibilities and new members. The committee is taking on all the details, start to finish, in creating our monthly Special Collections, through which we donate to groups up to good work. Plus the other major assignment is choosing and working with five speakers on our social justice theme for this year of children. And to accomplish all that, how we're working together is also new – collectively. We're meeting on the first Sunday of every month after the service. The members are Donna, Hank, Harold, Jocelyn, Lana, Lynn, and M.A.

This month in UU World online:

Five ways to support Black Lives Matter

Many Unitarian Universalists want to support the Black Lives Matter movement. Visit www.uuworld.org/articles/5-ways-support-black-lives-matter to read more.

Unitarian Universalist "Common Read"

The Common Read selection for 2015-16 is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson. For more info, go to www.uua.org/re/adults/read

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., Larry B., Paul H., Paul S., or Mark A.

September 6

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

September 13

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

September 20

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

September 27

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



October 4

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

October 11

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

October 18

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

October 25

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

Sunday Potlucks

Our potlucks will be held on **September 13th** and **October 11th**. Bring a dish to share.



POETRY GROUP
FOR SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER

The poetry group will meet on its regularly scheduled **fourth Sunday** in September and October. 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.

SENIORS GROUP

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., close by 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.

September 6 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. Somewhere you traveled, or the water from your backyard. Join us for this annual service that celebrates the blessings of clean and safe water! This will be an All Ages Service! Lead by **Amy O'Brien**.

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 13 CHECK YOUR BAGGAGE

Sermon by **Rev. Mark Gallagher**. Instead of meeting the events of the day with a fresh and open mind, most of us bring a good deal of “baggage” with us. Often our reaction has more to do with some event in the past than the present situation. We’d do well to set that baggage down.

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 20 MOVING FORWARD, MOVING ON

Sermon by **Rev. Barbara Stevens**. Whether change is one we like or not, it brings loss. Change can also bring joy, possibilities, and anticipation. How do we acknowledge the losses, let go of the past, and embrace the future?

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 27 A SERVICE CELEBRATING WORDS, SONG AND DANCE

Why do poets write -- to find wonder and awe when being in the moment? Come listen to our Wy’east poets read: Mabel Pool, Barbara Ross, Linda Burk, Ardis Bay Laurel, Linda Jo Reinhard, Jon Biemer and Lynn Thomas. Hear Linda Jo Reinhard also sing a lovely solo piece in French. And additionally, Paul Henerlau will be playing a musical selection. Our own Religious Education assistant, Fiona Jenkins, will finalize our service with dance.

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 4 LISTENING WITH OUR ENTIRE BEING

From **Rev. Barbara Stevens**. As a chaplain, I have learned a lot about being present to another. When we bring our entire self to even small interactions, our depth of listening can create transformation. And if we bring that same capacity for deep listening not only to others, but also to nature and to ourselves, we can heal the world.

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 11 A GODLY ATHEISM

Rev. Mark Gallagher asks, “Do you believe in God?” Why is this seemingly simple question so vexing to many of us? So much to believe; so much to disbelieve.

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 18 LAUGHTER AND PAIN AND GRACE AND CHILDREN AND GIGGLING
AND OTHER FORMS OF PRAYER**

Oregon author **Brian Doyle** joins us for a headlong reading and riffing from his many books of essays and fiction; he is, as he says, “absorbed and obsessed by laughter as a weapon against the dark, the defiance of stories, and the prickly wonder of profligate grace.”

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 25 BLACK KIDS MATTER

Jo Ann Hardesty, the new president of the Portland NAACP, former state representative, host of Voices from the Edge radio program on KBOO, and major African American leader in Portland will be our speaker. She says, “In a time where the rallying cry is Black Lives Matter, what is the message for youth in our community? How do we let them know they matter? This talk will provide concrete ways to support our community’s children.”

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.



Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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