

The Wy'east Beacon

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

*Whoever you are,
Wherever you come from
You are welcome here*

Wy'east [*Wy'east' : Ancient name for Mount Hood*] WWW.WYEASTUU.ORG

January/February 2011

What's Inside?

*Standing on the
Side of Love Day
...Page 2...*

*Social Justice
Interest Group
...Page 3...*

*Religious
Education
...Page 4...*

*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!*

From the Minister ♦♦♦

It's an exciting time at Wy'east! More and more people are attending services, and sometimes it's hard to find enough seats together to accommodate families. What a wonderful problem to have! The board and I are discussing actions we can take that will let new folks know that there is room for them. First on the list, getting more chairs!

I believe we do a good job of welcoming the stranger in our midst, but the particular challenge of family-sized congregations is to truly incorporate new people into the life of the congregation. (We're polite to our daughter's new partner, but it takes a while for them to feel like they're truly part of the family.) We like each other so well and have so many stories to tell, it can be hard to break in. Extroverts who already have much in common with some folks who are here have the easiest time, but people who might be shy or more reserved may find it more difficult. Let's each make a resolution to speak to someone we might not know as well during each social hour. *(Continued on page 2)*

Sunday Sermons

1/2	Service Sunday	Katy L.
1/9	Belonging	Marcia Stanard
1/16	Chalice Circle	Liana A.
1/23	Easing the Journey	Assesfash Melles
1/30	Peace	Sarah Schurr
2/6	Drum Circle	Paul Evans
2/13	Love and Justice	Marcia Stanard
2/20	One Voice in a Crowd	Jon B.
2/27	Accepting All Offers	Judy Zimmerman

(For Sermon Details, See "2 Months Of Sundays", On Pages 10 & 11)

From the Minister *(continued)*

Our new small groups are going well, and are designed to be places where people can share more intimately. I'm so pleased so many of you are taking advantage of this opportunity. I have also heard from some people a desire to have more opportunities for cross-age interaction, and perhaps deeper sharing. Over the new year, we'll look into opportunities to create this type of experience as well.

In January, we'll be having a series of two "Path to Membership" classes. These classes are designed for anyone new (or newish) to Wy'east. We'll laugh together, share our stories, and learn about Unitarian Universalism and Wy'east. You do not have to be ready to commit to membership to take the class. Please let me know if you are interested and if you would need childcare.

We will celebrate together our new members and our expanding community at Wy'east with a new member recognition ceremony on February 13th during the service. Please let me know if you would like to be included.

I'm so excited about where we are going together. I wish the very best for all of you and for all of us together in the New Year. May we all be richly blessed with lives of compassion, depth, service, community and joy.

Warmly,
Marcia

Considering Membership? Want to know more?

Contact our Consulting Minister Marcia Stanard at minister@wyeastuu.org for information on Path to Membership classes!

We'll meet on January 9th and 16th after church, at the Hollywood Senior Center. Please let Marcia know if you plan to attend. If you can only make one of the meetings, we can arrange for a follow up session individually.



National Standing on the Side of Love Day

Monday, February 14th, 2011 will be "National Standing on the Side of Love Day." Oregon UU Voices for Justice will be joining other groups at "Have a Heart" lobby day in Salem to urge the state legislature to protect social services in the face of our difficult state budget situation. We'll have the Salem Congregation's bright yellow Standing on the Side of Love banner and bright yellow T-shirts for sale. Join us to celebrate a Valentine's Day re-imagined and make visible our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Love is about more than romance, greeting cards and chocolates. We want to celebrate love's power to transform communities!

Go to <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/> for more information on the Unitarian Universalist Association's Standing on the Side of Love. Ask Barbara S. for more information about Oregon UU Voices for Justice and/or being in Salem to Stand on the Side of Love on Feb. 14.



Social Justice Interest Group

The new Social Justice Chalice Circle has been meeting to develop projects that the whole congregation, including our children, can participate in. Given the Wy'east goal of supporting immigrants and refugees in our community, we've decided to start by working with Hacienda CDC, an organization in Northeast Portland that we donated money to in September. Hacienda assists immigrants with housing and various social services. Two areas of need they have identified are food and children's books.

Their families always need white rice, as it is used in many recipes. In addition they would welcome pasta, dried beans, canned fruit and vegetables, and hardy produce such as potatoes, carrots, squash, and apples. We can do some repackaging into smaller bags if we find a good deal on a large quantity, so we will need some quart and gallon size ziplock baggies as well.

Books are especially needed for their Kindergarten through fifth grade children. Please avoid books that are linked to toys, movies, or other products. The majority of families supported by Hacienda are Hispanic, but there are also families from Africa and the Middle East. Books in English are fine; books in Spanish would be very special. Books can be new or gently used, so our children could donate some of their books. Hacienda would also welcome volunteers to read with the children or provide homework help at their after-school programs.

Please bring donations of food and books to church on January 16th. After the service we'll do any food repackaging and book sorting. Then we'll take everything over to Hacienda's office on NE 42nd some time Monday afternoon. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with us, and be thinking about what level of ongoing support Wy'east can provide to Hacienda.

— Nancy D., Larry B.,
and Mark A.

Wy'east Special Collections

January: “CAUSA is Oregon’s statewide, grass-roots immigrant rights coalition and the largest Hispanic civil and human rights, and advocacy organization in the Pacific Northwest. We work to defend and advance immigrant rights through coordination with local, state, and national coalitions and allies. CAUSA organizes, educates, and mobilizes to build power in the immigrant community. Through networking with immigrant, religious, labor, youth, and ally organizations, we work to create a society that recognizes the contributions of immigrants and upholds the values of equality and respect.”



www.causaoregon.org



February: “The **Oregon New Sanctuary Movement (ONSM)** is an interfaith coalition called by our faith to respond actively and publicly to the suffering of our immigrant brothers and sisters residing in the United States. We stand together in our faith that everyone, regardless of national origin, has basic common rights, including but not limited to: 1) livelihood; 2) family unity; and 3) physical and emotional safety. We witness the violation of these rights under current immigration policy, particularly in the separation of children from their parents due to unjust deportations, and in the exploitation of immigrant workers.”

www.oregonsanctuary.org

From the RE Committee

When the Religious Education (RE) Committee sat down to discuss ways to celebrate 2010's holiday season, we collectively gravitated towards themes of bounty and giving. And when it came time to talk about bounty and giving, we found ourselves talking about trees. We do that a lot of RE. We talk about trees.

During the holiday season in Religious Education, Rose and I wrote and illustrated a story for the kids about a tree that struggled with the fact that she was losing all of her leaves for the first time. She couldn't stand to see all of her leaves losing their color on the ground. That is, until another tree pointed out a boy gathering the leaves into piles and jumping in them one day. The two trees watched the boy, and the other tree reminded her that her leaves would come again next year. There are seasons for giving and seasons for receiving. The tree learned to appreciate her leaves while she had them, and give them up when it was time, knowing that they would provide great pleasure to others and that she would receive even more leaves the next year.

After reading this story, the children and teachers in RE talked about how sometimes it can be hard to give things up, and it can even be hard to share. But if we learn how to let go of our leaves sometimes, we'll find ourselves growing and learning even more. We didn't spend a whole lot of time making craft project for ourselves this holiday season - instead of keeping the pictures we drew during RE, we let them go to a greater cause. Liana pointed out that we took things from within *our homes* and turned them into beautiful objects that we sold to bring money to those *without homes*. Our soda cans turned into ornaments and candles that will give money to people who can't even afford soda. We truly shared our bounty.

This holiday season, the children at Wy'east demonstrated *yet again* what creative, generous, and thoughtful people they are. They cut out and colored leaves that turned into beautiful paper wreaths to place on the tables at our second annual Thanksgiving Luncheon with the Hollywood Senior Center.

They made crafts in RE and went home after church to make origami paper cranes, bookmarks, and a whole lot of tasty cookies for their Bake & Craft Sale. And their sale raised over \$300 for The Thirteen Salmon Family Center, a day shelter hosted by First Unitarian Church, for families transitioning out of homelessness.

As we settle into the new year, we're making plans to volunteer at The Thirteen Salmon Family Center (ask us about them!) and getting ready to celebrate Tu B'Shvat, a Jewish Holiday that marks the "New Year of the Trees." See, it always comes back to those trees. There's something about all of the bare trees decking Portland's streets this time of year that's quite powerful, that reminds us of what's passed and what's to come. And if we pay attention through the seasons, the trees can act as guides for us, showing us how to grow and navigate through our own transitions.

Love,
Ashley



Contacting RE & the Board of Trustees

Contact Liana A., the Religious Education Committee Chair if you have questions about our children's programming at Wy'east: weyeast-re@googlegroups.com.

If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to weyeast-board@googlegroups.com or talk to any board member (David Tode O., Karl A., Dan E., Hank H., and Liana A.) on Sundays at church.

Worship Odds & Ends

On Sundays, it is helpful for long-time Wy'casters 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'cast 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 or talk to Mark A., Brooke C., Katy L., Mary P., 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'cast

Join the Wy'cast Google Groups

Wy'cast 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'cast Directory

Wy'cast 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.

Betsy's Books

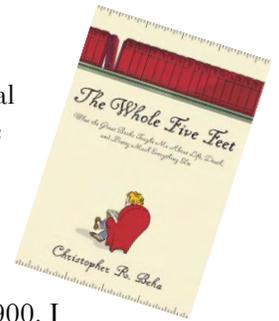
The Whole Five Feet: *What the Great Books Taught Me About Life, Death, and Pretty Much Everything Else*

by Christopher R. Beha

Equal parts memoir and intellectual excursion, Beha takes a year, while dealing with serious health problems, to read his grandmother's set of Harvard Classics, collected by Harvard's 40 year president, Charles Eliot, around 1900. I grew up with this same set staring at me while I ate dinner, but never opened a one of them, as they looked black and boring. So I was intrigued, and found that once I started reading, I couldn't stop.

The "Classics" were collected at a time when most folks did not even go to high school, and the set was to offer anyone the opportunity to learn in their own homes what people had thought about through time, and thus get more education. In fact, I now realize that my own father must have subscribed to and acquired the volumes for that very reason.

The readings are not in chronological order, which helped Beha realize that the ideas were from mostly young people speaking for the times they lived in, just as we do for ours, and he rediscovers their relevance and decides which are most valuable and interesting. Take a peek and see if you enjoy this surprisingly engrossing tale as much as I did.



Major Pettigrew's Last Stand

by Helen Simonson

This quality novel entranced me, and I have been desperate for things I can stand to read--so much is either just nothing, or concentrates

on "unpleasant downer stuff". Seldom have I found something so gently rewarding. The smooth rhythms of this tale bring us into an English village and involve current-day family, community, religion, race, and romance in young and older. I don't know if it is appealing to men, but why not? This debut novel is new, well reviewed, and you will have to put it on request at the library, as there is a waiting list.



—Betsy M.

2010 Celebration of Light

Thanks to Anders, Katy & Sonrisa for their hard work on the Pageant. And a great job by all the Wy'east children!



From the Board



It is easy to get caught up in the highs and lows of the holiday season. The waning daylight points toward the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. The word Solstice comes from two Latin words that together mean the “sun stands still”, because the sun seems to stop its journey south before retreating the other way, bringing back the light.

About this time two years ago, Wy’east was moving from southeast to northeast Portland, and from the waning light of early evening to the brightening mid morning for services. Either transition is difficult to decide, plan and execute, and together the risks and complexities were significant. The move was successful, and we found an energizing home at the Hollywood Senior Center. We can measure our success, in part, by how people have chosen to connect with us, shown by our growth in membership and attendance at Sunday services. There have been many challenges before and after; one came a year later, as our Minister decided to resign and spend more time with her family. We hoped to have someone hired by January, but were blessed by entering a partnership with our Consulting Minister, Marcia Stanard, by early September.

These changes would be difficult for any institution, and should be particularly taxing for an all-volunteer organization. Maybe our strength and resolve during these situations come from our choice to be together, to covenant together. Our location, our schedule, even our leader can take a lower priority than our commitment to our principles, to the earth, to social justice and to each other. Working through these vital trials can bring us closer, giving us a sense of accomplishment, encouragement and hope. It is easy to feel movement, to see progress, from a winter day draped in darkness, to a bright summer night. But sometimes we miss the little de-tails, the many points of light, when things that loom large in our lives block them. To facilitate our move, people: provided their vehicles; opened their homes for storage; brought food, and made many sacrifices and contributions.

Separately, the actions to relocate Wy’east would not be significant, but without all of them working as one it would not have happened. Some acts have since been forgotten, some were never even known.

Each week at Wy’east, there are words composed, music practiced, foods prepared, chairs arranged, lesson plans explained, doors opened, banners spread, name tags unraveled, meetings held, greetings exchanged, guidance given, thoughts provoked, rides offered, rooms straightened, dishes washed, smiles shared, and companionship extended. These acts by sometimes many, sometimes few volunteers create our experience at Wy’east. This experience is enriched by all these little details, all these points of light, no matter how small.

As the sun starts to make every day a little longer, maybe we can use this new light to uncover some details. We should acknowledge the details, thank those who provide them, and find one to contribute. Any and every added detail is welcome, and makes our hearts a little lighter, and our days a little brighter.

—*Dan E.*

Newsletter News

The Wy’east Beacon is published bi-monthly.

The deadline for the

March/April issue

submissions will be

Thursday, February

17th. Please 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. Thanks!

To save paper and printing costs, we are printing fewer copies of the newsletter. We encourage you to view the newsletter online, at: <http://wyeastuu.org/newsletter.php>



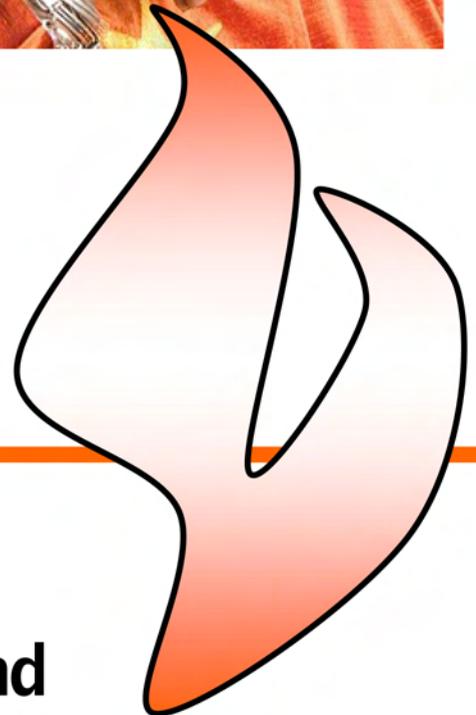
**PNWD 2011
DISTRICT ASSEMBLY**



Embracing Joy!



Spirit, Art and Activism



Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011

First Unitarian Church, Portland

8:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m. Doors Open 7:15 a.m.

Enter to check-in at 1226 SW Salmon St.

Featuring Dr. Ysaye Barnwell
of Sweet Honey In the Rock

Register at www.pnwd.org

Registration closes Jan. 18 or when 500 attendees is reached, whichever comes first.

Before & After Worship Programming in January & February

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

JANUARY 2

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

JANUARY 9

- **Potluck Brunch** • bring a dish to share right after the service.
- **Path to Membership Class** • After the service and Potluck, we will have our first Path to Membership Class. Class will meet from **12-2 pm** at the senior center. Please contact Marcia to let her know you'll be attending. Childcare can be arranged.

JANUARY 16

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Path to Membership Class** • Our second and final Path to Membership class will take place from **11:45-1:45** today. Lunch will be provided and childcare can be arranged. Please contact Marcia to let her know you'll be attending.

JANUARY 23

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

JANUARY 30

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am



Aidan and Anya E. play dreidel during social hour

FEBRUARY 6

- **Drum Circle** to be held at Wee Works Preschool, across the street from the Senior Center • 10:30 am

FEBRUARY 13

- **Potluck Brunch** • bring a dish to share right after the service.

FEBRUARY 20

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

FEBRUARY 27

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

UU Adventures in Eating

SUNDAY POTLUCK

Our potlucks will be held on **January 9th** at 11:30 am and **February 13th** 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.

TWO MONTHS OF SUNDAYS

January

January 2 SERVICE SUNDAY

Start off the new year with generosity and creativity. We will sing hymns, share words, and then create thank you cards for Morrison Child and Family Services. Morrison Child and Family Services provides mental health support for families facing trauma. They love to hand out hand-made thank you cards to their donors, and we will be creating thank you cards that reflect family and community. There will be arts and craft supplies provided, but feel free to bring along some of your favorite materials! This is an intergenerational service.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): There will be no RE, as this is an intergenerational Service. Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

January 9 BELONGING

Belonging: What does it mean to belong to something? Do we pay membership dues and are done with it, or is it something deeper than that? Today our Consulting Minister, **Marcia Stanard** takes on these questions.

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.

Path to Membership Class: After the service and Potluck, we have our first Path to Membership Class. Class will meet from 12-2 at the senior center. Please contact Marcia to let her know you'll be attending. Childcare can be arranged.

January 16 WHAT IS WY'EAST'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY?

Chalice Circle Sunday: What is Wy'east's role in the community? How can we expand upon the individual contributions of our members?

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.

Path to Membership Class: Our second and final Path to Membership class will take place from 11:45-1:45 today. Lunch will be provided and childcare can be arranged. Please contact Marcia to let her know you'll be attending.

January 23 EASING THE JOURNEY

Assesfash Melles, herself an immigrant from Ethiopia, counsels immigrants and refugees on the many issues they may face in coming to a new land and starting over. Some have been the victims of trauma before they left. Others face discrimination once they've arrived. Assesfash will share these experiences.

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.

January continued on next page

January 30 PEACE

We don't want war, but is there ever a time for violence? Wy'east member **Rev. Sarah Schurr** will explore this issue in the context of the recent UUA resolution on Peacemaking. A founding member of Wy'east, Sarah serves as PNWD Developmental Outreach Minister for Alaska and acts as Consulting Minister for the Juneau UU Fellowship.

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.

February

February 6 DRUM CIRCLE

With the pulse of a beat, people have been making a statement of humanity and grandness longer than we have been able to speak. By drumming together, we connect with an ancient practice and with the pulse of our circle. Please join us as **Paul Evans**, musician, artist and friend of Wy'east, takes us deeper, in another participatory drum circle. Bring your drums! We will have some available, but the service will involve everyone, with or without one. This is an intergenerational service at **Wee Works Preschool**, across the street from the Hollywood Senior Center.

Service: 10:30 a.m. at Wee Works Preschool

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): There will be no RE, as this is an intergenerational Service.

We'd appreciate everyone's help providing drums for today's service. Please bring yours or borrow some from friends to share!

February 13 LOVE AND JUSTICE

The UUA's Standing On the Side of Love campaign champions same-sex marriage and immigration issues. Today we'll examine several places where love and justice intersect. Today's service will also include a ceremony recognizing new members who have joined in the last 6 months or so. If you are interested in making a commitment of membership to Wy'east, please contact our minister, **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.

February 20 ONE VOICE IN A CROWD

Who will inspire Wy'east as it serves the community and the world? To help each of us answer that question, **Jon Biemer** will share stories and insights about people who stand up with those who can use some partnering and advocacy in addressing the powers that be. Jon is a founding member of the congregation.

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.

February 27 ACCEPTING ALL OFFERS

In its traditional sense, grace has meant a free and unmerited form of divine assistance. In this view, grace is like an unearned increase in the credit line on your cosmic credit card. However, must grace come from outside humanity – or could grace be our natural state? **Judy Zimmerman** will speak on this topic. Judy is a ministerial candidate, whose church is the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County, in Hillsboro.

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.