



WY' EAST NEWS AND NOTES

WY' EAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

APRIL 2007

We are a Welcoming Congregation to all persons regardless of race, color, gender, affectional or sexual orientation, age, national or ethnic origin, or economic background.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

April 1 UPS AND DOWNS

We all have times when things go well, and times when things don't go so well. In this intergenerational service, we will look at the Jewish festival of Passover and the Christian celebrations of Palm Sunday and Holy Week to understand how ups and downs happen to everyone. Marcia Stanard will lead this service for all ages.

Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.

Religious Education Children attend the entire service, but nursery care will be available for infants and pre-K kids.

Middle School Religious Education "Journey Toward Wholeness" anti-racism class, during the service.

Special Congregational Meeting 6:00 p.m. to make critical decisions about next year's budget. Please plan to come!

First Sunday Supper – Following the special meeting. Bring a potluck dish to share.

Senior Youth Group 6:00 p.m.

April 8 PRACTICING RESURRECTION

How might we understand the story of the resurrection within our faith tradition? What does Easter have to do with Unitarian Universalists? We'll explore the myth and metaphor of this day. Also, we'll celebrate the 10th anniversary of Wy'East's Charter Sunday, and honor those who founded our church. Cecilia Kingman Miller is in the pulpit.

Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m. *Hymn Sing at 4:45 p.m.*

Religious Education (Grades Pre-K-5) Downstairs during worship, but children attend the beginning of the service.

Second Sunday Soup –Bring a vegetable to church for the communal soup. Salads and bread are also welcome.

April 15, 22, and 29: Due to the search process for our new minister, sermon topics for these three Sundays are "To be Announced." Specific dates for the prospective minister's visit were not available at press time. One week we will hear from our candidate, selected by the Search Committee as our potential new minister. A congregational vote will be held after this service. One week we will have an Earth Day celebration with Karl Arruda, and one week we will have another service led by Cecilia Kingman Miller. (Also note that the Restaurant Adventure will happen on either April 15 or April 22.) You will soon receive a special mailing about our ministerial candidate, including the final worship schedule for April. Stay tuned!

April 15 SERMON TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED

Vocal Skills Class at 3:45 p.m.

Religious Education (Grades Pre-K-5) Downstairs during worship, but children attend the beginning of the service.

Middle School Religious Education "Journey Toward Wholeness" anti-racism class, during the service.

Social Hour – Join us for refreshments and conversation after the service.

Senior Youth Group 6:00 p.m.

April 22 SERMON TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED

Religious Education (Grades Pre-K-5) Downstairs during worship, but children attend the beginning of the service.

Social Hour – Join us for refreshments and conversation after the service.

April 29 SERMON TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED

Religious Education (Grades Pre-K-5) Downstairs during worship, but children attend the beginning of the service.

Middle School Religious Education "Journey Toward Wholeness" anti-racism class, during the service.

Social Hour – Join us for refreshments and conversation after the service.

Cecilia's Corner



I love these days when spring begins. No, it's not the appearance of tulips and dogwood, nor the sweet scent of daphne, that buoys my spirits. As a baseball fan, it's Opening Day that heralds hopefulness. Baseball is about hope, springing eternal, rising in us with the return of warmth and light. It's about possibility – every team starts fresh, and any team might make it. It's also about resurrection – the team that lost last year might take the Series this year.

Maybe I'm just a sap, but I love the dream that is embodied at the beginning of the season. I love to see the rookies and the old hands come together to chase possibility.

Possibility awaits you now too, a dream unfolding as you move into the future. The hard work that you have done this year to prepare for a change in ministry, the blossoming plans to meet your space needs, the growing generosity among you – all these point to a vibrant and vital future.

As you move into the next stage of your life together, like any athlete, you must concentrate on the most important things and

not be distracted. In church life, these priorities are our mission (our purpose) and our covenant (how we promise to treat one another), the twin aims of religious communities. They are both “the ties that bind” and the guiding principles of our being together. Keep your eye on that ball, friends, for mission and covenant will carry you through to your dreams.

One of my favorite baseball poems (yes, there is such a thing, and not all of it sappy or strange) refers to the moment when a pitch comes and the batter must focus on the ball and swing, a millisecond after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. The bat arcs through the air, the batter knowing only what he knows in that given moment; so, too, is this moment of stepping forward in your church life. We can never know all there is to know. We can never foresee all the changes and challenges ahead – nor all the joys that await us. But you can lead off with hope, with courage, with a firm and steady swing, knowing that you are ready for whatever comes this season – and all the seasons yet to come. Happy Spring!

In faith,
Cecilia

From the Search Committee

Some time in late April, we'll have the chance to get to know

our potential new minister, before voting on whether to call him or her. Before that vote, there will be many opportunities for us all to meet the candidate.

The Search Committee will have spent time with all the candidates, interviewing them, seeing what kind of worships they lead, reviewing their credentials, and talking to lots of people they have worked with in the past – checking references – to learn more about them. We'll talk about what our congregation needs in a minister, and see who fits. Then the Search Committee will choose one candidate and present that candidate to the congregation for a vote. This vote will take place after the candidate preaches a Sunday service at Wy'east.

On the days before that worship service, the candidate minister will meet several times with various people who serve on Wy'east committees, both board members and those in other leadership roles. And we will have a potluck the night before, with a chance for everyone to spend some time meeting the minister and getting more of a sense of his/her personality.

I'm really excited about the great ministers we've been meeting, and I'm looking forward to introducing the best fit to you all. Watch for a letter soon telling you the dates for this exciting weekend!

Anders L.
Search Committee Chair ♦



From the Board

Spring is here! As I sit at my computer writing this column on the official first day of spring, the weather is alternating between bright sunshine, rain, and hail. The weeds are threatening to take over my garden.

With spring comes planning for the next church year. I know it seems early, but July 1, the start of the next fiscal year, is only 3 months away, and, like getting my garden into shape, there's lots to do between now and then. On March 18, we held our annual Pledging Dinner – a celebration of our community and a chance to make our financial commitments to Wy'east for 2007-2008. Thanks to our chefs: Tode O., Mark A., and Raul M., and all those who brought contributions of food or drink, and to our fabulous entertainers. Our treasurer, Joanne F., and I will be following up with those who were not able to make it to the dinner.

Pledges are important because they help us with budgeting. Right now it looks as if pledge income next year will come in at about the same level as last year, so we are going to need to get creative to be able to call a

minister. I have applied for a grant from the Pacific Northwest UU Growth Foundation (PNUUGF). It looks as if they will be willing to give us a modest grant, supplemented with a somewhat larger loan. Negotiations are continuing. The board has called a Special Congregational Meeting for April 1 in which we will consider budget options and vote on whether to obtain a loan from the PNUUGF.

I would like to call your attention to the article elsewhere in this newsletter about the General Assembly (GA) Bed and Breakfast program. If enough of us open our homes to offer hospitality to out of town GA attendees, we can meet this year's fundraising goal AND get a jump on next year's fundraising. Not to mention that we would get a chance to meet some out of town Unitarian Universalists.

There will be two other Congregational Meetings in the next 8 weeks. The first will be at the conclusion of Candidating Weekend. As Anders mentioned, our ministerial candidate will visit us for a long weekend in mid to late April. The final event of that weekend is a Congregational Meeting after the service, when we will vote on whether to call the candidate to be our minister for the coming year. We don't know yet which weekend that will be. You will get a letter from the Search Committee as soon as we know.

Finally, our Annual Meeting will be held in mid-May. At this meeting, we will elect officers for the coming year, approve our final budget, receive our annual report of the current year's activities, and consider some amendments to our bylaws. We expect to hold an information session and discussion the preceding week so that everyone has the information they need to make informed decisions at the meeting.

Our fifth principle is "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Participating in these congregational meetings is one of the ways we affirm and promote this principle. See you there. And thank you for your participation.

Barbara S.-T.
Board Moderator ♦

Lifespan Religious Education (LRE)



Musings from Marcia

As I write this column, I'm getting ready to accompany

*Lifespan Religious Education
Continued*

Morgan and Stefan to Youth “Con” this weekend. Cons are UU district wide events planned and led by youth, with workshops, “touch” groups (youth and adults who bond within a smaller group setting), friends old and new, and, I’ve been warned, little sleep. I’m excited to be attending my first one, anxious to see Youth Empowerment carried out on a large scale.

Since the beginnings of Liberal Religious Youth (LRY) in the 1950s, youth empowerment has been an important part of Unitarian Universalist youth programming. As I learned from writing a UU History paper last month on the subject, LRY died partly over the idea that youth empowerment meant adults abdicating their responsibility to guide youth. LRY’s successor, YRUU (Young Religious UUs), tries to find that balance. Adults are there, being adults, but the youth are empowered to take responsibility. At Cons, this means that adults who witness something questionable are asked to tell a youth in charge, and allow them to deal with violations of the behavioral codes on their own. This responsibility is handled beautifully by the youth.

How does this experience translate into the real world? In our own congregation, I can tell you it translates beautifully. As I work with Morgan and Stefan

in the youth group, I am constantly impressed by their maturity and commitment to Unitarian Universalism. We are currently working through a curriculum together called Articulating Your UU Faith, which will culminate with them joining our congregation as members in May, during a service in which they share their personal statements of belief. I am incredibly proud of them and thrilled that the years of parents, teachers, and congregations working together to raise kids who are supported through their questioning and explorations of faith are paying such amazing dividends.

Whether currently involved in youth activities at church or not, our youth are an important part of our congregation. This year, we will have a bridging ceremony on June 17th for youth who have been or are currently involved with Wy’east and are graduating from high school. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in this ceremony of recognition.

Marcia S.
LRE Coordinator ♦

RE Notes from Karla

Life is education, ready or not. Spring is the perfect time to reflect on how each of us is continually learning about ourselves and about matters on a grander scale. Spring offers visual stimuli of renewal, transformation and the glory of

babies of a wide variety, blooming, taking wing and soaring. Are you, too, ready, feeling safe enough to open to spring and breathe in life’s lessons and love? Participating in Lifespan Religious Education is living life, reaching in and reaching out, making connections and offering oneself as a caring person. Wy’east has formal courses/classes available to all ages, but, often, our greatest spiritual education comes simply through living and sharing this wonderful life together. We are all needed to support one another in this great adventure.

Consider making this spring the start of one of your greatest educational experiences yet. Move out into the world with those awkward wobbly baby legs and dare to offer yourself and what you are passionate about to the world. You will find many like-minded spirits eager to move with you. Wy’east, as a community of caring people, looks forward to sharing in your journey.

Lifespan Religious Education is going strong at Wy’east, and there is room to stretch yourself to make our program even better. Consider becoming an assistant RE teacher, or just helping out from time to time this spring and summer. Think forward into next school year too. If you want to be involved in teaching youth RE (even if you’re not quite sure), but are not able to make a commitment this year, I encourage you to

Music Matters Continued

To all those who let their little lights shine, thank you for your unique contributions. The synergy that arises when people work together is a wonderful thing. Our spiritual community provides many opportunities to gather our energies and create something beautiful.

May it be so,

Linda Jo R.
Music Director ♦

Meet Some Interesting People while Helping Wy'east

During General Assembly (the Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations) this June, we have a chance to reach out to others while also benefiting Wy'east. UUs from all over the country will be coming to Portland and looking for a place to stay. We hear that many area hotels are already booked solid that week (June 20-24). So, if you have an extra room at home, or if your friends and family are so inclined, please offer to host some fellow UUs. Visiting UUs pay a bit less than a hotel would cost, and Wy'east receives the proceeds from each homestay we provide (minus our breakfast costs). This UU Bed and Breakfast program is a fun way to make new friends, and a great

opportunity to add to Wy'east's budget so we can have all the programs and ministerial support we dream of next year. If you're interested in being a host, or have questions, contact James B. at: james@holycow.portland.or.us. ♦

Kudos to Our Hospitality Coordinators

Many thanks to Debra T. for taking on the job of Social Hour Coordinator. Debra will ensure that, after Sunday services, someone in the congregation will host Social Hour, or make the potluck or soup supper run smoothly. Thanks also to Cindy S. for taking on the job of "Lockup Tzarina." Cindy will make sure that someone locks the doors, turns off the lights, and takes out the trash each week. And thanks to Mabel P. for continuing to arrange for greeters and ushers to welcome us and our guests.

All of these people rely on members of the congregation to take on one or more of these tasks most months. It takes 5 or 6 people every Sunday to cover these jobs, which are so important to welcoming all to Wy'east. So when Debra, Cindy, or Mabel ask for a little of your time to keep our Sunday evenings together running smoothly, please try to say, "Yes, of course!" Better yet, go up to one (or all) and ask when you can help. Thanks. ♦

Important Budget Meeting April 1st

Please plan to come to a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 1, right after the service. Together, we need to make decisions about next year's budget, in order to be able to call our new minister. Joanne F. will present several options, such as our enthusiastic participation in the aforementioned UU Bed and Breakfast Program and taking out a loan from the Pacific Northwest UU Growth Foundation (that we pay back as our congregation grows). Your attendance, thoughts, and vote are essential. See you there!

Newsletter News

Articles for the May newsletter are due by 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18. Please send submissions to co-editors, Abbie W. & Laura R. at wyeast-news-editor@holycow.portland.or.us.

We encourage anyone and everyone to contribute! For example, as in past issues, we would love to print your reviews on books and movies that may be of interest to others in the congregation. ♦

UU Adventures in Eating



Join us for our monthly **First Sunday Supper** on April 1, after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share. We will begin with a special congregational meeting about funding our new minister. **Second Sunday Soup:** Bring a vegetable to church on April 8 and drop it off in the basket by the entrance before the service starts. Our soup chef extraordinaire Mark A. will use it to prepare a delicious vegetarian soup to be enjoyed after the service. Contributions of bread and salad are also welcome. The **Restaurant Adventure** returns this month, with a group excursion to K2 Kebab at 3962 SE Hawthorne Blvd. (date to be determined based on when our prospective minister is in the pulpit, but either April 15 or 22). K2 Kebab serves Pakistani and Indian food at reasonable prices, including plenty of vegetarian options. We will head to the restaurant right after Social Hour. During Social Hour that day, please let Tode O. know if you plan to join us so he can give the restaurant a head count. ♦

April Office Hours and Bag Lunches

Cecilia will hold brown bag lunches from noon to 1 on Wednesday, April 4 and 11, at Waverly. Rich H. will be in the church office on April 11, 18, and 25th, from 1-3 p.m. If you have questions or church business, please call (503) 777-3704 during these hours. ♦

Denominational Doings

It's time to **register for General Assembly (GA)**, taking place at the Convention Center in Portland from June 20-24! Go to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website for registration forms, preliminary event schedule, and other information: www.uua.org/ga. Register by April 30 to receive an early bird discount. You may choose to attend all five days, or just one or two.

Keep in mind that the Closing Worship service on Sunday, June 24th from 4-6 p.m. is open to all, whether or not you have paid for a registration. Likewise, the Service of the Living Tradition on Thursday from 8-9:30 p.m., to honor professional ministry, is free and open to all, as is a demonstration sponsored by Public Witness for the Earth on Saturday, June 23 from 12:15 – 1 p.m., outside the Convention Center. The exhibit hall will

also be open to the public on Sunday. Be sure to take advantage of GA while it's happening in our own backyard, as it changes locations every year. ♦

Come to a **Workshop on Intentional Hospitality** on Saturday, April 28th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Atkinson Memorial Church, 710 6th Street, in Oregon City. "Showing Our Strengths" is a unique workshop for UU lay leaders and ministers in the Pacific Northwest District who seek to identify and enhance intentional hospitality practiced by our churches. Participants will have a chance to examine how we welcome (or unconsciously fail to welcome) newcomers – to move past "accidental" hospitality to showing our strengths to visitors. Cost is \$35 per person until April 20th; \$45 thereafter. For a registration form, talk to Cecilia K.M. or Barbara S.-T. Other questions? Jenell DeMatteo is the registrar and her email is: dematteo@olypen.com. ♦

Eliot Institute, the Northwest's much-loved UU summer camp, has openings for sessions in late June and in August: at Lake Okanagan in B.C. and Sebeck on the Hood Canal, respectively. Come see what all the fuss is about! Visit EliotInstitute.org or call (206) 374-2497 to learn more. ♦

OofS=order of service

April 2007 — Calendar of Events

* Unless noted by an asterisk, all events are at the church

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat.
1 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 5pm Middle School RE 6pm Budget Meeting & Potluck 6pm Senior Youth Group	2	3 7pm Worship Committee Meeting	4 10am OofS Deadline 12pm Lunch w. Cecilia	5 7-8:30pm Our Whole Lives	6	7
8 4pm Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm Hymn Sing 5pm Service 6pm Soup Supper	9	10	11 10am OofS Due 12pm Lunch w. Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hours 7pm Membership Comm.	12 7-8:30pm Our Whole Lives	13	14
15 3:45pm Vocal Skills 5pm Service 5pm Middle School RE 6pm Social Hour 6pm Senior Youth Group 7pm Restaurant Adventure (or next week, TBD)	16	17	18 10am OofS Due 1-3pm Office Hours 7pm RE Comm. Meeting 7pm Newsltr. Deadline	19 7-8:30pm Our Whole Lives	20	21
22 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour 7pm Restaurant Adventure (if not on 4/15)	23	24	25 10am OofS Due 1-3pm Office Hours 7 pm Board Mtg.	26 7-8:30pm Our Whole Lives	27	28
29 5pm Service 5pm Middle School RE 6pm Social Hour	30					

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Return Service Requested