



# 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*]

April 2009

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*Wy'east is now at  
the Hollywood  
Senior Center at  
1820 NE 40th,  
Portland.*

## Reveries ♦♦♦

By Rev. Susan Maginn

*Resurrection. Bunnies. Crucifixion. Celebration. Jesus.  
Egg Hunts. Passover. Equinox.*

I defy anyone to explain Easter while standing on one leg.

So many messages have been stirred together through the centuries of Judaism, Paganism, and Christianity. If you scratch the surface, you'll see a patch worked trail of profound theological confusion.

The one theme that is consistent throughout is rebirth. We are emerging from the dark of winter on the verge of spring. The theologies, mythologies and symbols may be confusing when they are all sitting next to each other, but we really need not look much further than the brave crocus to know what the season is all about.

My favorite is the daffodil because someone had to intentionally put that bulb there – and not last week but last fall. They had to put the bulb in ground knowing they would wait through months of chilled gray before that bloom would show up. *(Continued on page 5)*

## Sunday Sermons

- April 5      **A PLEA FOR RADICAL LOVE**, Rachel Cooper
- April 12     **EASTER SUNDAY: JESUS AND THE SAVING POWER OF NONVIOLENCE**, Rev. Susan Maginn
- April 19     **THE GENEROUS SPIRIT**, Rev. Susan Maginn
- April 26     **LIVING AND GIVING IN THESE TIMES**, Rev. Sue Ayer

*(For sermon details, see "A Month of Sundays", on Page 7)*

## From the DRE



In Iran, beautiful pots are thrown on the ground to ward off evil (that which signifies death) and fires are leapt over to reel in the good (that which symbolizes re-birth) during NoRuz. In India, there is a “festival of colors” called Holi. People literally douse each other in colored powder and/or liquid while celebrating in the streets. In China, there are dragon parades and lanterns are lit. Red envelopes full of fresh money are passed out in an attempt to suppress evil spirits. In Vietnam, there are firecrackers and gongs to ring in the New Year. Gifts are exchanged and homage is paid to the Kitchen God. There are as many ways to celebrate spring, (or a new year, if you are following the lunar calendar), as there are people to celebrate.

After so many days spent staring at the black and white etchings of winter, bright bursts of color almost jump out at us at an alarming rate. Tulips, daffodils, violets—all vie for our attention, while the trees begin to slowly dress themselves once more.

In R.E., we celebrated the Chinese New Year by making our own Chinese yo-yos. We learned about Holi and talked about ways in which people in various cultures celebrate the coming of spring. During this journey, I began to think more and more about our own personal celebrations of spring. I began to wonder, does Easter represent our country’s initiation into spring and not just the resurrection of Jesus Christ? And for those non-Christians, who perhaps don’t celebrate Easter, what’s left? A spring equinox gathering? (Possibly.) When I Googled “spring equinox celebrations”(non-religious slant), to find some roaring celebratory ideas, I got this:

“Many people believe that since the equinox is a time of balance where the daylight hours and nighttime hours are equal, that -- by some mystical force -- one can balance eggs on their end on these days. Some believe that one can only balance an egg within a few hours before or after the exact time of the equinox.

Hmm...so we can either dye Easter eggs, or balance them on our head, that is if we can make it at the exact hour of the day in order to catch the mystical force. When I finished my examination of spring celebrations, I was left without a real idea if the country, as a whole, has a national holiday to ring in spring. So, I asked the children what they did to celebrate spring. I heard things like, “Taking a long trip in the car, playing on my swing in the back yard, jumping on my trampoline, planting things in our garden, blowing bubbles...” And that is when it hit me. We do have our own celebration.

We celebrate life, and rebirth. We celebrate the miraculous fact that the earth is renewed, that those leaves really did come back on those barren trees and that the smell of earth and grass has a new vigor about them. We celebrate the colors, the smells and find our way out to our own backyards once again. And it is there that we gather with our friends. And though a lot of us may not hand each other red envelopes, break pots, or jump over fires, we gather together. We share laughter, food and the stories of our days. We share a renewed sense of life and our spirits are lifted.

So, on this note—I wish you all a merry spring, full of rebirth—for yourselves and your traditions of spring. Whether you will be planting in the ground, or flying a kite high in the sky, I wish you a renewed sense of celebration, because no matter who you are, or where you come from, you cannot dispute the miracle of spring. Happy spring!

As always, it is a joy and an honor to work with your children.

In faith,

—Annie

## More Tidbits for New Members and Others

Get your name in the **directory** and on the Wy’east **email list** (not heavy traffic but a great way to stay informed about all sorts of good stuff).

[Hanna.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:Hanna.nelson@gmail.com).

Register your **children** in the **religious education** program. Talk to Annie H. to get this process rolling.

## Contacting the Minister and Board of Trustees

**Susan Maginn has new work hours:**

**Tuesday and Thursday** from 2-6pm

**Wednesday** 6-9

Susan can be available at other times as well.

Contact her to set an appointment: 503.867.7310

[minister@weeastuu.org](mailto:minister@weeastuu.org)

If you have questions for the Wy’east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to [weeast-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:weeast-board@googlegroups.com) or talk to any Board member (Karl A, Mark A, Jill D, Barbara S. or Elizabeth S.) on Sundays at church. ♦

## After Worship Programming in April

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in April, please contact Rev. Susan Maginn at susan.maginn@gmail.com.

APRIL 5

• **Potluck Lunch** - bring a dish to share, help set up tables and clean dishes. *During the potluck:*

There will be a **Wy'east Volunteer Fair** at the potluck—if you know of something at Wy'east that needs more volunteers, contact Alex R.

APRIL 12

- **Social Hour**
- 12-2 **Path to Membership** class

APRIL 19

- **Restaurant Adventure**
- **Social Hour**
- 11:45 **RE Committee meeting**
- 12-2 **Path to Membership** class

APRIL 26

- **Social Hour**
- 11:45 **Parent Support Group: Discussing Prayer with Your Children.** Childcare provided, bring a snack for your child.
- **Discussion group** about sermon



### Path to Membership

Are you considering membership at Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation? Have you found a spiritual home here, and want to deepen your connection to our community of faith? We invite you to attend this class before joining.

Path to Membership class will be on **Sunday April 12** and **April 19**, 12-2 p.m. at Hollywood Senior Center, led by Rev. Susan Maginn.

**New Member signing of the membership book** will be after the worship service on **May 3rd**. There will be New Member Ceremony during a worship service sometime in May...stay tuned.



From the Board

## Impatience and Inspiration

In the last month or so I have surprised myself with my impatience. Impatience with work, seminars, weather, TV news, the economy, etc.

Putting aside the merits of my impatience, my thoughts have led me back to a few constant ideas, trying to remind myself to find some patience.

One is the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Another is from the Book of Micah from the Hebrew Scriptures:

“... What does the Lord require of you  
But to do justice, to love kindness,  
And to walk humbly with your God?”

A third is a quotation from a co-worker's email I saw last week: “Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.”

There. That is where I place my impatience and ask the universe for more patience, or at least to know how to constructively use my impatience.

One thing I've always loved about the Micah quotation is that most translations say “love kindness” or “love mercy”, so Micah is saying not just “be kind” but to LOVE being kind. That is a lot to ask. But the quotation from my co-worker clarifies it. We are all fighting some kind of battle, and we should love to offer each other kindness as an antidote to our tribulations. Then we are truly living out the Golden Rule.

Things will be imperfect. We may lose our patience. But the quality of mercy, compassion and humility we offer to each other are the strongest measures of the quality of our lives. I think Wy'east strives to offer those qualities. I hope you find them here.

—Karl A., Board Moderator

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Last year we did a worship service called *Passages* to acknowledge the significant events in life of our congregation in the past year. If you have had a significant birth, death, marriage, union, anniversary or other life-changing event please contact Rev. Susan Maginn. Currently our Passages service is scheduled for June 7th.

## Big Brother, Big Sister Potluck

As part of our community outreach at Wy'east, we will be hosting a potluck at the Senior Center for the Big Brother, Big Sister organization on Sunday, April 19th at 5:00 PM. As many as 25 of their "matches" - kids and their mentors - are expected to attend.

This is a good event for us to engage in. It continues our social justice focus (many of the kids come from poor and single parent families), and highlights our ongoing commitment to children. The potluck also uses this year's theme of feeding people, plus it's a neighborly thing to do (the Multnomah County office of the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program is in the Hollywood District).

Some of our own families with kids would be more than welcome to attend (please bring a side dish or dessert); however, we won't know until maybe as late as a week before, the range of ages of the kids who are coming. Other Wy'easters would also be welcome who'd be willing to handle set-up and take down of the tables and chairs, decorating the Senior Center, doing kitchen duty along with me, managing games and a possible talent show, and being responsible for overall crowd control.

Please contact me if you're interested.

Thanks, *Mark A.*

## Worship Odds & Ends

In our new location, it will be 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 may need to make quick escapes!), or people who want to discretely enter after the service begins. Thanks!

**If your child wants to light the chalice** during a worship service, please contact the lay leader for April, Tim M.

## Newsletter News

Submissions for the May newsletter are due by **7 p.m. on Friday, April 17th**. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to: [wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com](mailto:wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com). ♦

## Listen to our worships at home

Go to <http://wyeastuu.org/sermons.php>.

## Generosity

The theme of this year's budget drive – and in fact our whole year – is generosity.

Look around you and you'll see many examples of our generous natures. It's easy to see our monetary contributions at work, but we can also see the extremely generous spirits of our community at work all the time. Just a few of the many examples would be:

- A member of our community receives the news the news that s/he needs to have a serious operation and recovery time. The community gathers force and gives comfort and aid to the member.
- A member of the community takes time to put away the chairs after the service every Sunday.
- A member of the community regularly misses the worship service so that she can teach Religious Education to the Wy'east children.
- A member pops into the kitchen and offers to dry dishes after the potluck.
- A member picks up bagels and delivers to soup kitchens around the city.

This year at Wy'east has been full of exciting changes. To follow suit, the canvass will also be conducted differently this year. We are lucky to have identified canvassers who are an integral part of Wy'east. These folks (Anders L, Tode O, Joanne F. and Debra T.) have been assigned a group of Wy'east members and friends. Sometime before April 19th, the groups will gather to get to know each other better and to share with each other the hopes and dreams we have for our community.

On April 19th and April 26th, the worship services will be dedicated to the themes of stewardship and generosity. During these two weeks, the canvassers will meet with each person in a one-on-one basis to discuss and sign the pledge cards. Then the canvass team will pass on the pledge cards to our Board so that they can create our July 2009 - July 2010 budget. This budget will be presented at the Wy'east Annual Meeting in May.

## Young adults at Wy'east

Young adults at Wy'east sometimes get together for spiritual discussions, volunteering and playing. To join in or suggest outings, contact Elizabeth Suh at [elbow83@yahoo.com](mailto:elbow83@yahoo.com).

## UU Adventures in Eating



**Potluck** – Join us for our **First Sunday Brunch** on April 5th after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share and stay for the Volunteer Fair.

**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 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.

## Reveries

*(continued from page 1)*

Note to self: cover the yard in daffodil bulbs this fall.

Whether it is celebrating being passed over in Egypt or celebrating the resurrection of Jesus or celebrating the Spring Equinox or celebrating the daffodil, we know that something is coming to life.

I wonder what is coming to life in your life. What has been germinating, hibernating, maturing during this winter? What will emerge in the heat of sunlight? It is coming.

—*Susan*

**Rev. Maginn has a blog!** Check it out at:  
[www.rev-susan.blogspot.com](http://www.rev-susan.blogspot.com). ♦

## Come to the UU Celebration of Interdependence Family Camp!

**MISSION:** To provide UUs from the Pacific Northwest a sustainable and affordable retreat, in honor of our 7th Principle, our “blue boat home.” This camp offers an opportunity to share multi-generational fellowship, while rekindling our spirits and celebrating interdependence. Rich offerings of music, play, spiritual practices at sustainable earth-friendly camp in an alcohol-free setting.

**WHAT:** Second Annual UU Celebration of Interdependence Family Camp

**WHEN:** 4th of July Weekend, Thursday, July 2 to Sunday, July 5

**WHERE:** Camp Cedar Ridge, Vernonia, 40 m. W of Portland, Tillamook Forest

**WHO:** Sponsored by UCCWC in Hillsboro. Come join us!

**Chaplain:** Reverend Sue Ayer on site.

**HOW:** Affordable prices: \$132-\$140 adults; \$95, 5-9 yr olds, 4 and under free. Includes **THREE** nights lodging and **NINE** meals, along with all camp amenities: pool, slip-n-slide, athletic courts, 28 acres on the river under starry nights.

**Registration:** Opens April 15.

For more information and registration form--please go online at [www.uccwc.org/familycamp](http://www.uccwc.org/familycamp) or contact Sara Cloe, RE, at UCCWC: 503-648-1720

**OR,** talk to members of your church community who attended last year:

Linda Jo R. and Paul H. 503-231-3738

**Definitions:** “Family”--Any UU who wants to celebrate with others from the Northwest. What makes this camp different? The vision of intergenerational, family-style programs that don't segregate out age groups for many activities. And, the programs pack an earth-based punch! From Sunship Earth to The Great Universe Story, all framed in worshipful gatherings of celebrating life outdoors, i.e.: FUN!!

**PS.** If you want to contribute to a campership fund for those who couldn't otherwise attend, whether you come to camp or not, please do so thru registration form—Thanks!! Encourage your church to set up a campership fund for your members.

# Parenting and Peace

Liana A, a new member at Wy'cast, led a discussion group for parents in March, on promoting peace within the home. Liana has worked with families as a teacher, nanny and behavior specialist. She was thrilled to make her vision of adding a spiritual dimension to her professional work come into being. Here are some highlights from the discussion:

The group started off by defining peace from a variety of viewpoints, including personally and within our families. The dictionary definition is “absence of aggression, violence or hostility,” the Buddhist definition is “contentment or a state of being free from desire.” Educator, Bruno Picozzi, says that, “Peace is what happens when people are free to develop themselves in the way they want, without having to fight.” Active Peace Theory says that peace is “part of a triad: peace, justice and well-being; one cannot exist without the others and when all three exist, people find salvation.” As a family, each person may have a different vision of peaceful co-existence, so honest communication, mutual respect, and freedom of self-development are all necessary to create harmony.

A good place to start is by talking to children about our vision of a peaceful family life and why it is important to us, while listening to your children’s ideas and concerns. As adults, we sometimes have to walk a fine line between respecting our children’s perspectives and setting loving limits that they need in order to thrive. Kids live in the moment and are naturally focused on self, so parents should be ready to help children see the long-term consequences of their actions and to learn how to “walk in someone else’s shoes” and empathize with them.

One of the greatest gifts children bring to the table is a strong sense of justice. They easily recognize when they are being treated unfairly, and as they grow, when others are being treated unjustly. This contribution has the power to encourage parents to adjust their own behavior to ensure more equality, for example, when appropriate, involving children in decision-making to resolve a conflict. Children’s grievances can also present an opportunity to teach them about gratitude. Maybe they desperately want a new toy, but you feel they already have enough, or it is too expensive for your family to afford. Helping the child work through his/her disappointment and begin to enjoy what s/he already has, and to see that others may not be so fortunate, is a wonderful way to instill appreciation – and life-long happiness – in our kids.

Finally, freedom to explore our individual paths is a goal of peace – and it creates peace as well. So, time apart for

this exploration is critical for families, even if it just means your child is in the next room, getting lost in a science or art project, thought-provoking book, writing in a journal, or imagining. When kids learn to sit quietly with themselves, they develop independence, confidence, and a personal spiritual life. We all know that parents certainly need this kind of quiet time too, to recharge our batteries and to find meaning.

This month, Liana will lead another discussion for families, on talking to our children about prayer. Please plan to join in! Childcare will be available.

## Educate, Organize, and Advocate *Oregon UU Voices for Justice* *Saturday, April 18, 2009*

“Today it is imperative that we bring our prophetic voices – and our prophetic faith – to the public square, to the halls of government where policies and laws affecting all are made.”

Rev. Carol McKinley,  
Our Faith in the Public Square, October 12, 2008.

The Oregon UU Voices for Justice, a state-wide liberal religious legislative advocacy network in the making, will gather at the UU Congregation in Salem on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 10 am – 4 pm. (A soup lunch is being organized.)

The workshop/planning session led by the Rev. Carol McKinley, Coordinator of the Washington State UU Voices for Justice, and Rob Keithan, Intern Minister at the First Unitarian Church in Portland and former member of the Advocacy and Witness staff at the Washington, D.C. UUA Social Justice office, will provide background information about the advocacy work of the UUSC and the UUA and catch us up on the work of the many new state UU advocacy networks being established throughout the United States.

Rev. Carol and Rob will help us define the steps needed to get this important work started so that UUs in Oregon will be able to put our UU faith into action – educating, organizing and advocating for public policies which reflect our UU values and core principles.

Join us in Salem on April 18th and help us get this vital network up and operating in Oregon. The UU Congregation of Salem is located at 5090 Center Street, Salem, OR 97317. To RSVP and for more information, call or email Laura Stine at 503-364-2849, [lstine@ide-nw.org](mailto:lstine@ide-nw.org).

# A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

## April 5 A PLEA FOR RADICAL LOVE

In tough economic times, societies tend to get a whole lot more punitive. This means that more people get sent to prison for longer sentences and with fewer rehabilitation services. Our prison system was a mess before the economy took a hit-- already in our country's state prison systems, more than half of the inmates are addicted to some kind of drug, but fewer than 1/5 receive addiction treatment. To add insult to injury, we don't even provide adequate services for survivors of crime. How do we, as Unitarian-Universalists, approach and fix this problem while being sensitive to the hurt and fear on all sides? Member **Rachel Cooper** will lead worship.

**Choir rehearsal:** 9:30 a.m.

**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.

**Youth Group** (High School Age): 11:30 a.m.

**First Sunday Brunch & Volunteer Fair:** 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share and find out how to use your talents to serve Wy'cast

## April 12 EASTER SUNDAY: JESUS AND THE SAVING POWER OF NONVIOLENCE

We'll reflect on nonviolence as the core teaching of Jesus' life and ask: Why has this core been overshadowed since Jesus' execution? How does the path of nonviolence challenge war hawks and pacifists alike? How is personal religious faith essential to non-violence and how are the ways of non-violence essential to any social transformation? Service led by **Rev. Susan Maginn**.

**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.

**Youth Group** (High School Age): 11:30 a.m.

**Social Hour:** Join us for refreshments after the service.

**Path to Membership class:** 12-2 p.m.

## April 19 THE GENEROUS SPIRIT

Each person is blessed with special gifts and graces. How are you called to give what you have been given? Service led by **Rev. Susan Maginn**.

**Choir rehearsal:** 9:30 a.m.

**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.

**Youth Group** (High School Age): 11:30 a.m.

**Social Hour:** Join us for refreshments after the service.

**R.E. Committee meeting:** 11:45

**Path to Membership class:** 12-2 p.m.

## April 26 LIVING AND GIVING IN THESE TIMES

"May you live in interesting times." These words could serve as either a curse or blessing, signaling obstacles or opportunities. What choices will we make in our living and our giving, so that we can help one another survive and thrive in these interesting times? **Rev. Sue Ayer** is a former member of Wy'cast and former parish minister of Eastrose Fellowship in Gresham. She is now the Affiliated Community Minister at the UU Community Church of Washington County in Hillsboro, Oregon.

**Choir rehearsal:** 9:30 a.m.

**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.

**Youth Group** (High School Age): 11:30 a.m.

**Social Hour:** Join us for refreshments after the service.

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

**Parent Support Group:** 11:45

**Sermon Discussion:** 11:45 a.m.

*Note to self: cover the yard in daffodil bulbs*



Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Mailing address: 1916 NE 38th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97212

**Return Service Requested**