



WY'EAST NEWS AND NOTES

WY'EAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
FEBRUARY 2007

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

February 4

COUNCIL OF ALL BEINGS

The Council of All Beings is being offered again as an Intergenerational worship service. The purpose of this experience is to feel respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Wy'east children will use shadow puppets to give voice to the lives we share. Katy has taught this interactive media to the children during January as part of their religious education classes.

Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.

Religious Education All children stay for the entire service, with nursery care for pre-schoolers & babies.

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

First Sunday Supper – Bring a potluck dish to share.

February 11

LOVING AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

"There is scarcely anything more difficult than loving each other," the poet Rilke said. Our culture tells us love is easy, and pleasurable, as though those qualities were of the highest value. Yet perhaps real love is work – the work of self-transformation. Cecilia Kingman-Miller will be in the pulpit.

Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.

Hymn Sing at 4:45 p.m.

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

Second Sunday Soup – Bring a vegetable to church. Contributions of bread and salad are also welcome.

February 18

REFLECTIONS ON THE SUNFLOWER

Are there limits to our ability to forgive? What does our Unitarian Universalist tradition say about who is worthy of forgiveness? Ministry Candidate, Sarah, wrestles with these issues in the context of Simon Wiesenthal's book about justice, compassion, and the Holocaust.

Vocal Skills Class at 3:45 p.m.

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

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

Restaurant Adventure at 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced during social hour.

February 25

BYOT: Being Your Own Theologian

Come and explore those big questions of life and meaning usually saved for religious scholars. Guest minister the Rev. Sue Ayer, will be in our pulpit.

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

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

Cecilia's Corner



As I write this I am surrounded by boxes and packing tape, preparing for my family's move to a new house. One of the things that I like about moving (and there are only a few) is finding old letters and keepsakes, those scraps in the backs of drawers. Each time I find some little sketch in a childish hand, or a note from a friend, I am drawn into reflection. Even in the hurry of packing and the mess of transition, it's a sweet savoring of life's journey thus far.

This month I will be away from you more than I will be present, as I head out on the road for numerous meetings, retreats, and consulting with other congregations. The first two weeks of the month I'll be back and forth between Wy'east and the Eugene church. Beginning mid-month I will be on the road for more than two weeks. First I'll attend the winter retreat of the district ministers' association, the UUMA, when we will gather in Boise for rest and renewal and some continuing education. While in Boise I will also attend the Annual General Meeting of our District, along with Barbara who is your voting delegate to this body. After that I will head

to the Bay Area for the meeting of a Unitarian board I serve on, Project Harvest Hope, which provides sustainable economic development to the Unitarians of Romania. Then I'm off to the Philadelphia area to provide some fundraising and stewardship consulting to congregations there. I will be available by phone and e-mail as needed, and have asked area colleagues to be available for pastoral emergencies. (See "Cecilia's hours this month" on page 6 for my precise schedule and availability.)

Though I don't like to be away so much, this travel will give me an opportunity to reflect on my work with you and what remains to be accomplished in these next few months. As the search committee begins to review candidates for your next minister, I begin to ponder my own departure and any responsibilities that remain to finish.

It has been my job to pastor and to cheerlead, to help you heal from past hurts and envision a bright new future. We have worked on healthy conflict management, inviting worship, and governance that is appropriate to your size. I have also tried to create a little space for the new minister—opening up more possibilities for your relationship, inviting you to reflect on some old habits and procedures, and helping you determine your goals and mission. It has been a joy to work with you for the last eighteen months. And now,

with five months remaining in our time together, I have asked the board to help me determine the best use of my attention and time. Together we'll determine what will best prepare you for new professional leadership. I know that these next months will be busy and joyful as we look toward your future!

In faith,

Cecilia

A Special Invitation

As most of you have by now heard, I will be ordained this coming June. First Unitarian Church of Portland will ordain me on June 18, 2007. They are my home congregation, the church that sent me off to seminary and provided support both spiritual and financial, and I am honored by their decision to ordain me.

Wy'east will play a very important role that day, too, as your moderator will perform the act of investiture, also known as the placing of the stole upon the ordinand (that's me!) for the first time. All of you are invited to this ceremony, and I hope you will each be there. Time TBA, but we do know it will be in the evening.



From the Board

This month, the Board is focusing on – among other important ongoing and one-time items of business – the financial aspects of our current year, and the upcoming one as well. A number of people have expressed concerns to us as to whether we can afford to hire a half time minister next year. The answer is a resounding yes, IF WE WANT TO.

To date, at the half-way point of this church year, we are very pleased to report that we are in good shape financially. This is true both in terms of where we are on our expected pledges, and income vs. expenditures. We have received 57% of our budgeted pledge income, have spent 41% of our budgeted expenses, and are running a surplus of about \$3,750.

What's next is to determine how all of this is going to look next year (2007-2008), as we move forward in hiring a half-time minister. To do that, we've decided to take the very practical step of moving up the whole canvass (pledge) process two months earlier than normal - to take place in March, rather than May as usual.

Doing this puts us on a much stronger footing, as far as knowing what to expect from ourselves for next year's overall budget, and how that relates to calling a half-time minister. This way the search committee will be able to move forward with interviewing candidates knowing that we will be able to make an offer when we have chosen a new minister. What this means for you is that you can expect to be asked before long to consider what you are willing to contribute this next church year, even though the July 2007 – June 2008 fiscal year seems a long way off.

Some dates to keep in mind: The board meeting on February 21 will be devoted to long range planning. We will lay out a five year plan for membership, ministry, and money. As always, all members of the congregation are welcome at this board meeting. On March 4, during the potluck, we will have a Congregational Informational Meeting to present the resulting long range plan and to talk about the financial aspects of that plan. The annual Canvass Dinner will be March 17 – Our Lucky Day.

Another thing to think about is how we might do some non-pledge fundraising. One option that has been suggested is to offer home hospitality during General Assembly (GA). We would provide bed and breakfast in our homes for a price, to GA attendees from out of town, with the proceeds going to Wy'east. You will

hear more about this as GA gets closer. (GA is June 20 – 24, at the Convention Center.) If you have any other fund raising ideas, please tell them to any member of the board.

Thank you all for your many contributions, not just financial, to making Wy'east a welcoming church home.

Mark, Vice-Moderator
& Barbara, Moderator ♦

From the Search Committee

Now that our search packet is ready to go, the next step is to share the packet with the congregation, which will hopefully turn the survey we all recently filled out into a coherent picture of us as a people. The Search Committee will then begin the confidential phase of our work. Our packet will go to various ministers interested in getting to know us, and the committee will look over resumes and curricula vitae.

This stage of our process is confidential for a few reasons. First, if a minister is already working with another church, they don't want to announce that they're looking for another job until they have one lined up. Also, the Search Committee is the only group guaranteed to see all the candidates and in equal amounts. If we told you the list of names, and you knew two of them but the others were

strangers, you might be biased for or against the ministers you know.

We appreciate the trust and responsibility the congregation has put in us. We will try to keep everyone up to date on major milestones: resumes received, interviews happening. It will be challenging, but we won't be able to give you any further details than that. Thank you all for your patience. This is the process that lots of churches have used to best find a new minister.

Anders,
Search Chair ♦

From the Membership Committee

Recently, we've all become aware of the difference it makes to welcome visitors by not taking all the central "good" seats in the church during services.

The other thing I've noticed, particularly now that I'm on the Membership Committee, is the difference it makes to welcome visitors the whole time we're in church, not just when we're greeting one another during the service. This includes social hour. Some people extend themselves to newcomers, some don't. We all need to. If we say we're a welcoming congregation, we need to be that. We don't want to come across as too

busy being with each other to make space for newcomers. Thanks.

Mark,
Membership ♦

Newcomers' Orientation



New to this church or to Unitarian Universalism? Want to find out more about us, and what it means to be a member of this religious community? Curious about what other UUs believe? Join us! Led by Cecilia Kingman Miller, with help from leaders in the congregation, this lively, interactive workshop will give you a chance to ask all of your questions, hear an overview of our history (beginning in the 4th century!), share your own journey, and make new friends.

The workshop will take place February 11, from 3:00 to 4:30. Please RSVP to the church office. If you need childcare, please request it by Wednesday, Feb. 7 so that we can ensure adequate coverage. ♦

Music Matters



“Why do I need vocal skills?” you might ask, “I’m not planning on singing in the opera, or yodeling in the Swiss Alps.” Actually, we use our voices every day to communicate, whether through words, or song, or a whoop of delight. Learning to use different nuances of your voice that you may not typically use while reciting a laundry list has many advantages. To name a few, training can add color to your speaking voice, increase your lung capacity, protect your vocal cords, and give you more confidence in using your voice.

This year I am offering a monthly Vocal Skills Class. These are self-contained (free) classes, so don't worry if you can come only occasionally. Everyone is welcome; you needn't be a singer, though we do sing. Mostly, I want you to have the self-assurance to speak up and sing out!

Vocal Skills Class meets on third Sundays at 3:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please feel free to drop in. Childcare is available during this time.

Linda Jo,
Music Director ♦

Lifespan Religious Education



During January, Wy'east children have been participating in informal classes on puppet making, identity, voices and movement, guided by Katy. Katy is sharing her experience in the world of theater and puppet making with us, in preparation for a children's group presentation during our Intergenerational Service of the *Council of All Beings*, set for February 4th. Each child will use a shadow puppet to give voice to a part of our life that is important to the child.

Marcia, our Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator, is deeply engrossed in her ministerial studies in Chicago. She is disappointed to miss Wy'east's annual *Council of All Beings*, but she will be back shortly after to run our children's RE classes with Mabel, the teacher for our youngest ones.

On January 21, the **middle school class** began meeting with Anne. They will continue

to meet every other week. Anne is still looking for an eager co-teacher.

The middle school RE class chose to focus on inter-cultural understanding and combating racism, using materials from the Unitarian Universalist Association's *Journey Toward Wholeness* initiative. The class will explore several cultures found in the Pacific Northwest and their experiences of racism. They'll discuss history, contemporary issues, and opportunities for healing. There will also be plenty of time for fun, such as trying recipes and arts and crafts of other cultures, hosting a movie night, pursuing a social action project as a group, and possibly going on a field trip.

The class will meet during Sunday services. The schedule is as follows:

- January 21
Introduction and Kickoff
- February 4 & 18
Black History Month
- March 4 & 18
Asian American Experiences
- April 1, 15, & 30
Native American Stories
- May 13
Wrap-up

If you know of a middle schooler who would like to register for the class, or if you're interested in co-teaching, call Anne via the church office number - 503-777-3704.

We hope to also offer Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education for middle school

youth in the near future. If you are interested in taking the course or teaching it, please contact Karla.

We hope to see many of you at the UU History Class this month—see the accompanying article. Additional **Adult Religious Education** classes will be offered this spring. Many of us are eager to be involved and learn from each other.

As we move forward into the New Year, we are hoping to establish some long range goals for Religious Education and plans of how to meet them. If you have any topic ideas, or have a class in mind that you'd like to teach, please pass on your suggestions.

Due to inclement weather (prophesized black ice) the LRE Committee did not hold our January meeting. Our next meeting is still to be decided as the second Wednesday is Valentine's Day, but the date will be in the order of service and announcements. As always, the LRE committee welcomes input from our congregation. We hope to hear from you or see you at our next meeting!

Karla,
LRE Chair ♦

Our American Roots Class Continues

The second half of this Unitarian Universalist history class started on Sunday, January 28. The class will continue to meet downstairs each Sunday in February from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. All are welcome! The 5 sessions will cover the early 1800s through modern times. Mark and Tode will co-facilitate. Please let us know if you're interested, by calling the church office. Please join us! ♦

UU Adventures in Eating



Join us for our monthly **First Sunday Supper** on February 4, immediately after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share. **Second Sunday Soup:** Bring a vegetable to church on February 11 and drop it off in the basket by the entrance before the service starts. Our soup chef extraordinaire Mark will use it to prepare a delicious vegetarian soup to be enjoyed after the service. Contributions of bread and salad are also welcome. After the service on February 18, we will have our monthly **Restaurant**

Adventure. The location will be announced during Social Hour, which takes place in Hyde Hall right after the service. We will head to the restaurant just before 7 p.m. ♦

Pancake Supper to Celebrate Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday, also known as Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday in the Christian tradition. It is a day of feasting and partying before the fasting and soul searching of Lent. Our host congregation, Waverly United Church of Christ, will be holding their traditional Fat Tuesday pancake supper, in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 20. All are welcome. Check Waverly's website after Feb. 1, for more information and the time of the event: <http://www.waverlyucc.org/calendar.html>. ♦

Lay Leader Training and Worship Retreat

Our Lay Leader and Worship Retreat has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In this lively, interactive workshop, we will learn what makes for a warm and inviting

worship service, and how each element of the service has a special purpose. We'll play with the different parts of the service, take our turns trying out different components, share a potluck lunch, and create a worship service to close our time together.

Anyone who is interested in lay leading is strongly encouraged to attend – and others are welcome as well! Led by Cecilia Kingman Miller and members of the Worship Committee. ♦

Cecilia's Hours This Month

Cecilia will be out of the office for the second half of February. Bag lunches will be held on the first two Thursdays (February 1 and 8) and then will resume in March. If you need to reach Cecilia while she is away, you can leave a message at the office, or for a speedier response, e-mail her at CKingmanM@aol.com. ♦

Newsletter News

Articles for the March newsletter are due by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21st. Please send submissions to co-editors, Abbie & Laura at wyeast-news-editor@holycow.portland.or.us. We encourage anyone and everyone to contribute! ♦

Denominational Doings

The **General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)** comes to our District this year, and with it, the chance for more of us than ever to join 1000s of UUUs in celebration of our unique faith. (GA will take place at the Convention Center from June 21-24.) We will also have the opportunity to **welcome out-of-town participants by serving as volunteers** in the following ways:

- Greet people as they arrive at the GA site.
- Register attendees.
- Provide information about the local area.
- Assist UUUs with mobility difficulties and other needs.
- Care for young children or helping with field trips.
- Staff the GA office.
- Count votes at plenary sessions & mini-assemblies.

Volunteers who work 16 hours in the children's program or 24 hours in other roles, receive a free registration. Applications will be available March 1, and must be turned in by March 31. For details, contact Rosie Hamilton at (503) 293-5453 or rosiephilH@msn.com. ♦

Speaking of General Assembly ...

The Michael Servetus UU Fellowship in Vancouver, WA will offer a pre-GA workshop on Sunday, March 4 from 1-2:30 p.m. The session will be particularly useful to people who have never

been to a GA. It will help you make the most of your time: from singing hymns with 5,000 other UUUs, to workshops, to business meetings, to UU University. If you want the richest possible GA experience, this is the place to start. ♦

A **Chalice Lighters Call** is going on now to raise money to help youth from each and every congregation in the district attend GA. **Chalice Lighters** give \$10 or more 3 times a year to support some local effort, usually a growth related activity of an individual congregation. See Morgan to sign up to be a **Chalice Lighter** and to donate to this call. ♦

Missing Hymnals

Many of our grey hymnals have gone a-wandering from home. Perhaps you borrowed one to learn a few hymns or to copy a reading? If so, please return it right away—we're short on Sundays! A few have already reappeared. Thank you! ♦

UU History in February

Feb. 1, 1786: Aaron Bancroft was ordained minister of the Second Congregational Church, later called First Unitarian, in Worcester, MA. He became the first president of the American Unitarian Association in 1825.

Feb. 3, 1821: Elizabeth Blackwell was born in Bristol,

England. America's first woman physician, she came to the U.S. in 1832. She was a friend of Florence Nightingale and active in promoting public health and hygiene.

Feb. 11, 1806: The Fund for Promoting Unitarianism by Means of Popular Preaching was formed in London.

Feb. 12, 1791: Peter Cooper, industrialist, inventor, and Philanthropist, was born in New York. His Baltimore ironworks produced the first steam locomotive built in the U.S. In 1859 he founded the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. He was a member of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City.

Feb. 12, 1809: Charles Darwin was born in England.

Feb. 15, 1820: Susan B. Anthony was born in Adams, MA. Her family was Quaker, but were also active members of First Unitarian in Rochester.

Feb. 23, 1848: John Quincy Adams, a lifelong Unitarian and the 6th U.S. president, died of a stroke on the floor of the House of Representatives. He was 80.

Feb. 28, 1901: Linus Pauling was born in Portland, OR. The only person to win 2 undivided Nobel Prizes, for Chemistry in 1945 and the Peace Prize in 1962, he was a member of First Unitarian of Los Angeles.

* Excerpted from [This Day in Unitarian Universalist History](#) By Frank Schulman, 2004. ♦

OofS=order of service

February 2007 — Calendar of Events

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat.
			(January 31) 10am OofS Deadline	1 12pm Lunch with Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hours	2	3
4 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 5pm Middle School 6pm Potluck Supper	5	6 7pm Worship Committee Meeting	7 10am OofS Deadline	8 12pm Lunch with Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hours	9	10
11 3-4:30pm Newcomers 4pm Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm Hymn Sing 5pm Service 6pm Soup Supper	12	13	14 10am OofS Deadline	15	16	17
18 3:45pm Vocal Skills 5pm Service 5pm Middle School 6pm Social Hour 7pm Restaurant Adv.	19	20 TBD p.m. Waverly UCC's Pancake Supper	21 10am OofS Deadline 6pm Newsletter Deadline 7 pm Board Mtg.	22	23	24
25 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour	26	27	28 10am OofS Deadline			

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Return Service Requested