



[Wy'East' — Ancient name for Mount Hood]

February 2008

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Reveries ♦ ♦ ♦ By Rev. Susan Maginn

At the beginning of January, I was away from Wy'east for two weeks during my study leave. I went to the backwoods of Missouri to stay in a one-room cabin next to a lake.

I luxuriated in silence and solitude. My days were filled with reading, writing, meditating, praying, practicing yoga, fasting and creating a handwritten collection of my favorite poems.

A couple times a day I would take to the woods and walk the trails. On one particular day, I got about 10 feet from my cabin and there I saw a pair of birds on a rotting log. I did not want to disturb them, so I waited until they flew away. However, by the time they flew away, I did not want to walk. I just watched them fly and long after they had flown from my sight, I watched the woods. All of a sudden the trees were alive to me. These were the same woods that I had been moving through for days, and now I could not tear myself away from this place. I sat. I noticed textures in the moss, this same moss that I had been walking over in previous days. I noticed flashes of light dancing on the water.

In the weeks and months to come, I look forward to talking with you about the joys of spiritual practice. On February 3rd, we will have a worship service that will be devoted to reflecting on how spiritual practice can strengthen each of us, and our spiritual community. Also, Wy'east has been selected as a field-test site for a new curriculum called Spirit in Practice. The class will be led by Marcia Stanard (our Director of Religious Education and ministerial student who just completed a seminary course on the subject). This course will be held on 10 Tuesdays from March 4th-May 6th, taking March 25th off for spring break, so mark your calendars.

It was good to be away, and even better to be back!

Susan

P.S. Better late than never...

I regret that I did not get to acknowledge the work of Rev. John Robinson during the Christmas Eve service. A good portion of the format and content that Marcia and I used was inspired by a service he led at Eliot Unitarian Chapel in St. Louis many years ago. "We drink from wells we did not dig."



From the Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry is supposed to make sure that our community is staying true to our purpose and acting out our mission. The thing is, we're not totally clear what our mission is. Yes, we have a mission statement, but it's several years old. A lot of the people who wrote that mission statement aren't around anymore, and a lot of new people have joined our community since then.

So we have two projects that we think will help us be the best congregation we can be. We're going to draft a covenant (a promise, of how we act towards each other), and put together a community service project for our congregation to do all next year. So we're going to have a series of sharing suppers in February when we can talk in small groups and discuss two questions: What does Wy'east do well? What are the greatest needs of the community in which we live? The Committee on Ministry will listen to these conversations, and try to synthesize what we hear into one concrete proposal for us to do next year. We plan to announce our discovery in March at the Canvass Dinner.

These conversations will also help us understand what we should put in our new covenant. All the poets in our community should start thinking now, of different phrases that could go into a covenant. We will share some examples to give everyone an idea of what a covenant is, and then we'll ask you what's most important about our community and how to describe these unique qualities. The committee will gather your ideas, and offer the congregation a draft covenant in April, which we hope will be good enough to be adopted at the annual meeting in May. I look forward to hearing everyone's ideas.

Anders L
Committee on Ministry ♦

Music Matters



To help ring in 2008 we learned a new children's recessional. I was pleased at how quickly the congregation caught on, and how good it sounds when you sing it. After having sung "Go Now in Peace" in our congregation for ten years, this is a big change.

Why all this fuss about a simple song for the children? Well, to me, the most important reason is this: Natalie Sleeth, the composer of "Go Now in Peace" was clear that she did not want the words changed. So, more than simply being a copyright issue, I consider this to be a question of ethics.

The issue of using altered lyrics against the expressed wish of the composer came to my attention on the chat list of the Unitarian Universalist Musician's Network (UUMN). Many, many congregations across the country are weighing this particular matter.

What are the choices?

- (1) Sing the lyrics as originally written, "...May the love of God surround you..."
- (2) Choose a recessional with lyrics that everyone feels comfortable singing.
- (3) Sing "Go Now in Peace" with altered lyrics, against the wishes of the composer.

Now that we know more of the story, the third choice is not really an option anymore. Happily, this very controversy has encouraged many UU composers to write new children's recessionals, so there are plenty from which to choose.

My goal is to introduce several recessionals this winter, then let everyone have a voice in deciding

Continued

Music Matters Cont.

what to sing. After all, we do value the democratic process in our congregation.

Change is rarely easy ~ I appreciate your willingness to try some new tunes!

In harmony,

Linda Jo Reinhard
Music Director ♦

LRE Lifespan Religious Education



Anders L, Katy M, Marcia Stanard and I were sitting around a table one evening and poring over RE curricula. What did we want to do this year? What would be useful for UU kids to know? One thing I knew for sure was that the best teachers I have ever had have been the ones who really cared about what they were teaching, who really thought it was important. What do *I* think is important? What do *I* wish I had been taught as a UU kid growing up?

That was when past situations began popping into my head: Characters or themes in art and literature that related to the Bible that I hadn't understood. Literalist Christian classmates quoting Bible stories at me like 'Truth. I couldn't disagree because I had no idea what they were talking about. Bible stories, I realized, are an important part of our cultural heritage both as Unitarian Universalists and as Americans. My UU

upbringing, while quite fruitful, had left me woefully inadequate in this area.

The more I thought about biblical knowledge, the better it began to sound as part of our RE program at Wy'east. Beyond the culture, there is a lot of important religious content that we as UUs can gain from the Christian and Jewish Scriptures. Who of us doesn't get excited about loving our neighbor? And I don't know about you, but not stealing and not killing people both sound like good ideas to me. My 1st-4th grade class unanimously agreed on these points as well. Plus, when we teach our kids these stories ourselves, we can talk to them about what to take from them – the morals, the ideas, and the historical context – and what we can leave at the table. Possibly most importantly, learning about the beliefs of these religious traditions helps build understanding and tolerance between faiths, something we all need more of in this world.

In peace and love,

Morgan S
Religious Education Teacher ♦

Help Guide the Future of RE

You're invited to attend a meeting on Sunday, February 10th after the service to talk about the future of religious education at Wy'east. Grab a bowl of soup (it's our monthly Soup Supper night) and sit at Marcia Standard's table to enjoy great food and company and talk about your hopes and dreams for our RE program. What would you like our children and adults to learn? What ideas do you have to make our already-strong program even better? Marcia will share what it's like to teach and her thoughts on a new way to run an RE Committee – with fewer meetings and mostly hands-on tasks shared among the group. Find out how you can get involved. See you there! ♦

New to Wy'east?

On February 17th, our minister, Susan Maginn, will host a conversation about the history of Unitarian Universalism and about Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation. If you are interested in becoming a member at Wy'east or just want to learn more about this place and this religious tradition, please come! We'll meet in the sanctuary after the worship service and social hour, at about 6:15 p.m.

Contacting the Minister and Board of Trustees

Rev. Susan Maginn is available to talk with you if you are new to Wy'east or Unitarian Universalism, if you have any questions or concerns, need some support, etc. She does not have full-time office space so it's best to call or email Rev. Maginn to make an appointment. She can be reached at: (503) 867-7310. If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can talk to any Board member (Barbara Smith-Thomas, Karl Arruda, Joanne Foulkrod, Mark Alter and Jill DeRosa) on Sunday afternoons at church. ♦

Chalice Circle Meeting Times

Chalice circles are small groups of Wy'east members and friends who get together to have conversations about the things that matter most to us. It's a great way to get to know people, to explore your beliefs, and to learn about Unitarian Universalism. Groups tend to meet once a month and are open to all. The following small group ministries are currently active at Wy'east:

* **Men's Support Group**, led by Mikio O, meeting on Wednesday evenings at Mikio's house, next scheduled for February 6th from 7:15-9:15 p.m.

* **Knitters/Crafters' Chalice Circle**, led by Debra T and at her house on Saturday afternoons from 1-3 p.m., next meeting on February 2nd.

* **Parents' Chalice Circle**, led by Laura R, meeting at Waverly on Saturday mornings from 10-noon, next on February 16. Childcare is generally available at the church during the meeting.

* **Young Adults' Chalice Circle**, led by Elizabeth S, meeting on Saturdays from 2-4 p.m., next on February 16th.

If none of these groups seem like a good fit for you, how about forming another? Rev. Susan Maginn can help you get started. Susan's contact information is: (503) 867-7310. ♦

Save the Dates

It's February, and that means it's time to think about the fiscal and organizational matters that keep Wy'east operating smoothly. So, please add the following important dates to your calendar and check the March newsletter for more details:

Saturday, **March 15** – Annual Congregational Dinner and Pledge Drive (in the evening).

Sunday, **May 4** – Informational Meeting and Conversation in Preparation for the Annual Meeting (right after the service).

Sunday, **May 18** – Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Adoption of Budget, etc. (right after the service).

UU Adventures in Eating



Join us for our First Sunday Supper on February 3rd after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share. February 10th is Second Sunday Soup. Bring a vegetable to church and drop it off in the basket by the entrance. Mark Alter and Gina O will use it to make a tasty vegetarian soup for all to enjoy after church. Bread, salad, appetizers, etc. are always welcome too. On February 17th after the service and social hour, we'll head out for a Restaurant Adventure, location to be announced. If you'd like to take part, please tell Tode O that day. He'll get a count and call ahead so our table will be ready. ♦

Newsletter News

Submissions for the March newsletter are due by 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20th. (We're back to our usual schedule of the 3rd Wednesday of the month.)

Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, book recommendations, drawings, etc.

Let's get creative!

— Laura R & Abbie W

Art Work from Allanque

Allanque is a Kindergartener in Religious Education at Wy'east.



Denominational Doings

Pacific Northwest District Annual Meeting

From February 29 – March 2, 2008, Unitarian Universalists and friends will gather in Tacoma, WA for the Pacific NW District's Annual General Meeting. This year's event was planned by three congregations from South Puget Sound: Olympia UU Congregation, Saltwater UU Fellowship, and Tahoma UU Congregation. Rev. Rebecca Ann Parker is a featured speaker. Her most recent book, Blessing the World, provided the theme for the weekend. Organizers say that, "More than 2 dozen workshops will stimulate your mind and inspire your soul." There will also be programs for children and youth, a choir, music, and entertainment. Events take place at the transit-accessible Hotel Murano in downtown Tacoma, within walking distance of museums and the UW Tacoma Campus.

Ample volunteer opportunities exist, from staffing the registration table to assisting with workshops or other events and helping other UUs find their way around. Those willing to work at least 6 hours will receive a \$69 rebate off the \$185 registration fee. If you're interested in volunteering, please let Mary Watson (mwatson@barbornet.com) or Joan Benderson (joan.benderson@nventure.com) know right away. For registration materials, check the District Web site: www.PNWD.org or contact Wy'east Board Moderator Barbara Smith-Thomas smiththomas@att.net. ♦

Local UU Author to Read from Her New Book on Same-Sex Marriage

Local author, Beren deMotier, a UU, will read from her new book, The Brides of March: Memoir of a Same-Sex Marriage, at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13th, at St. John's Booksellers in Portland. She describes the book as "a raucous tale of getting married, celebrated, lost in legal limbo, and annulled by a State Supreme Court decision in Multnomah County." The bookstore is located at 8622 N. Lombard Street in

Portland. For more information, call St. John's Booksellers (503-283-0032) or go to deMotier's Web site (www.thebridesofmarch.com). ♦

UU Theater in Portland

What! Theater Company presents *Jesus in Love*, "a romantic adventure starring the savior of the world, a woman he meets at a party and half a dozen wayward saints." Casey Scott directs and the script is by Portland-area playwright Alan LaDuca (a member of the West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship). The show runs from February 14-24th at the performance space at Classic Pianos of Portland, 3003 SE Milwaukie Avenue. The show starts at 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 24th (there will be no performance on Sunday, February 17). The play is for all ages and costs just \$7. UU Youth Groups are encouraged to attend and one adult chaperone will get in free with every group of 3 or more young people. To reserve your free adult ticket, email or call Alan LaDuca ahead of time: alanladuca@msn.com or (503) 981-2179. ♦

Employment Opportunities at the UU Fellowship of Corvallis

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis is looking to fill 2 paid positions:

Office Administrator: This position is full-time with benefits. Good communication, computer and people skills are necessary.

Community Coordinator: The Coordinator, who will assist in welcoming and informing members about church programs, will work 17 hours a week and must be available most Sundays.

If you are interested in either or both jobs, please call: (541) 760-1774 or email Michael Molk: molk@corvallis.org as soon as possible to request an information packet. (They preferred responses by January 25th.) ♦

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

February 3 MAKING SPACE FOR THE SACRED

The ancient mystic poet, Rumi, said, "There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground." Is spiritual practice a part of *your* life? Let us consider ways we can invite the sacred into our lives.

Rev. Susan Maginn leads this service.

Choir Rehearsal: 4:00 p.m.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K- 8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

First Sunday Supper: Bring a potluck dish to share following the service.

Youth Group (High School Age): 6:00 p.m.

February 10 TECHNOLOGY'S IMPACT ON HUMAN CONNECTIONS

Society has gone through enormous changes in recent history due to unprecedented technological advances of all kinds. How have these changes impacted us as human beings and the ways we relate to one another? Technology has made the world feel smaller, and yet more isolated, all at once. How can we find community in today's world? Howard Nichols, a student at Marylhurst, will lead this service.

Choir Rehearsal: 4:00 p.m.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Second Sunday Soup: Bring a vegetable to church for the soup. Bread or salads are appreciated too.

Religious Education Visioning Meeting: At the supper; all are most welcome to join the conversation.

February 17 LET LOVE RUN THROUGH THE STREETS

Every person and every congregation has unique spiritual gifts. How are we at Wy'east giving our gifts to the world now, and what will mission look like at Wy'east in the years to come? Rev. Susan Maginn will be in the pulpit.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education: (Pre-K-4th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Newcomers Session: 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary

Youth Group (High School Age): 6:00 p.m.

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

February 24 LIVING OUR LEGACY

How do our Unitarian Universalist roots call us to live in the larger community? Portland Minister, Rev. Patti Pomerantz, will explore some of the starting points of our interdependent UU web of existence and reflect on what they mean to us. Rev. Pomerantz brings her Jewish upbringing, her Quaker training, and her passion for peacemaking through interfaith work to UU ministry. She is also a member of the Interfaith Spiritual Center in Northeast Portland.

Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal: 4:00 p.m.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

OofS=order of service

February 2008 — Calendar of Events

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

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2 1-3pm Knitters and Crafters Chalice Circ. at Debra Tomsen's *
3 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service & K-4 th Gr. RE 5pm 5-8 th Grade Relig. Ed. 6pm Potluck / Youth Group	4	5	6 10am OofS Deadline 7:15-9:15pm Men's Chalice Circle at Mikio Ohgushi's house *	7	8	9
10 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service & K-4 th Gr. RE 5pm 5th-8 th Grade Relig. Ed. 6pm RE Meeting 6pm Soup Supper	11	12	13 10am OofS Deadline	14	15	16 10am-Noon Parents' Chalice Circle 2-4pm Young Adults Chalice Circle at Elizabeth Suh's *
17 5pm Service & K-4 th Gr. RE 6pm Social Hr / Youth Grp. 6:15pm Newcomers Session 7pm Restaurant Adventure	18	19 7:15-9pm Worship Committee	20 10am OofS Deadline 7-9pm Membership Committee 7pm Newsletter Deadline 7:15 pm Board Meeting	21	22 7-9pm Committee on Ministry	23
24 4pm Intergenerational Choir 5pm Service & K-4 th Gr. RE 5pm 5th-8 th Grade Relig. Ed. 6pm Social Hour	25			28	29	

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Return Service Requested