



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]

February 2009

What's Inside?

From the DRE
...Page 2...

After Worship
Programming
...Page 3...

The Gift of
Responsibility
...Page 4...

Pragmatic
Programming
...Page 5...

Sunday Services
...Page 7...

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

Reveries ♦♦♦

By Rev. Susan Maginn

*They might not need me -- yet they might --
I'll let my Heart remain in sight --
A smile so small as mine might be
Precisely their necessity --*

by Emily Dickenson

I have been reminded of this poem as I have heard stories of change. There is the change of a new president, a new family of color in the White House, a new possibility for renewing our integrity as a nation.

And there is change much closer to home. People are getting the news that a job is lost, hours are cut, an investment is gone and in a moment, the vision of the future shifts. That money that was saved for college is going to go for food instead. The trip to see loved ones is now indefinitely postponed.

Even if a job is not lost in your household, you can sense a shift. We don't know who will be directly impacted and who will not. But we do know that so many things are not going according to plan.

What does this mean for us, as a religious people? How will we collectively respond to this crisis? This is a question that we will be asking for months, perhaps even years to come.

Wy'east has taken a few humble steps. There is a ministerial discretionary fund, created so that people who are in a pinch can contact me (503.867.7310) so that I might release funds to help pay a bill, to help keep a utility running. Also contact me if you would like to contribute to this fund.

Gina Ortola, psychologist and Wy'east member, is going to offer a group called Living in Tough Times, starting February 8th after the worship service. If there is interest in this group, we'll keep offering it. All are welcome, so feel free to invite friends.

Take care of your body and spirit in these times. Keep turning toward the holy and keep that small smile clear. Lest you feel you have nothing to give, that smile might be 'precisely their necessity'.

—Susan



From the DRE

A new year, a new time, a new location, and to top it all off, a new R.E. Director! Just goes to show you, the only constant in life is change. If you are like me, a creature of habit...change can be difficult.

To help in this time of transition, I want to encourage parents with kids in the R.E. program to come to me with any questions or concerns you may have at any time.

Because I am new, and you may be too, I would like to tell you a few things about the program. We have four age groups: 3-5 years, 6-8, 9-12 and the youth group, which is for teens. Each group has a unique U.U.-based curriculum, specifically designed for your child's age. I will talk more about the curricula in the March newsletter but, of course, you can come to me with any inquiries you may have before that.

Today, I would like to share just a few basic concerns that we, as the Religious Education Committee, have with regard to the safety of our children.

- 1.) Please make sure that, as adults, we are always setting a good example when walking across the street. (Always cross at the corner, even when you are crossing alone.)
- 2.) Please be aware that children need to be picked up at Wee Works in a timely manner (within 5-10 minutes after the service) so that our volunteer teachers may join the rest of the congregation.
- 3.) When you pick up your child/children, remember to sign them out (we'll have a roster at Wee Works) so that we can keep a precise count at all times.

I will keep you posted if any new concerns or questions arise.

I would like to leave you with my sincere thank you for welcoming me, with such open hearts, into your congregation, and honoring me with the privilege of working with your children.

I'd also like to leave you with words of inspiration by Tennyson for the new year (and all our many new changes) so that we may find our own unique ways to embrace them all!

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Yours in Faith,

—Annie

Guest at Your Table Update

We will be collecting the monies for the Guest at Your Table program on Sunday, Feb 8th. Please make checks payable to: UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) and please remember to complete the form on your box.

Thanks to all who have helped in the struggle for justice by collecting your coins and cash over the last couple of months. If you have any questions, please see Annie H., Director of Religious Education.

Creating a Special Place for Kids at the Senior Center

One of the wonderful things about Wy'east is when all ages gather together for fellowship during potlucks or other events. In our former location, after eating, kids often spent time playing in their classroom or in the nursery. Since children's classes now happen across the street, away from our communal eating area, it would make together time at the Senior Center more fun, easier on parents and kids, and safer for all, if children had a corner where they could move around and play.

The R.E. Committee's vision for this "Kids' Zone" includes some open space at the far left of the room (when facing the stage) where children could stretch out, dance, play Hullabaloo or other active but safe games, as well as a table set up nearby with inviting activities such as art supplies, puzzles, modeling clay, board games, and books, to engage our curious and energetic youngsters!

What would your family enjoy in the Kids' Zone? Do you have small toys or activities to donate that would interest kids of various ages? (Items would have to fit in our storage cabinets, so the smaller the better, or you can bring them to church just for the day.) Or, do you have a talent, fun project or game, or educational (and entertaining) topic you'd like to share with Wy'east's children and youth during a potluck? Let us know and we'll help you get set up.

If you have any ideas or questions about the Kids' Zone, talk to anyone on the RE Committee: Sharron H., Gina O., or Laura R. Wy'east's Director of Religious Education, Annie H., is available every Sunday too.

Get Your Wiggles Out

Are you looking for a way to serve Wy'east that doesn't require long hours or a weekly commitment? Do you want to do something meaningful and really fun and silly too? How about volunteering to spend time with our babies and toddlers? Once in awhile,

especially on holiday weekends, Wy'east needs a substitute childcare provider to care for infants and toddlers during the worship service (or children of different ages during morning choir practice or after-church events). We are looking for a nurturing person or people age 18 or over to fill this occasional need. If you aren't able to help but have a family babysitter or know of someone who would be a perfect fit (Wy'east can pay for their time), please talk to Laura R.

After Worship Programming in February

Restaurant Adventure

February 1 11:40 Join other Wy'east members at Fleur De Lis, our neighbor on NE 40th.

Living in Tough Times

February 8 11:40 Come and talk about how you are handling the economic realities of the time and how to cope with the stress that comes with them. The group will be facilitated by Wy'east member Gina O., who is a psychologist at the Portland VA Medical Center.

Newcomers Chat

February 15 11:40 Are you new to Wy'east? Join us for an informal chat with Rev. Susan Maginn and other newcomers.

The Value of Music and Silence in Your Life

February 22 11:40
Conversation facilitated by Mark A.

Upcoming in March...

Wy'east Parent Discussion Group

You are invited to discuss ways to **Foster Peace** in your home when you have children. The first discussion will take place on 3/15 after the worship service. We will share our experiences turning faith into action in our daily lives, specifically with young children. Liana A. will be facilitating this series of parent discussion groups. She is a new addition to our congregation who has been working with children and families for over a decade. Care time will be extended at Wee-Works. Bringing a snack for your child is advised.



From the Board The Gift of Responsibility

In this time of all times in U.S. history, it is hard not to be inspired. Even though the road ahead may be difficult for the nation, there is a new spirit of confidence in the air - and this spirit will carry us through.

Our congregation too, not just our country, is at a collective crossroads - one where we also face uncertainties. We have a minister, we have a new location, we now have morning services, and yes, we see new energy and new faces.

Yet we do not live in a bubble, immune to the larger currents at work in our economy. When faced with such a circumstance, it can be tempting to pull in, hunker down, cut back, and lay low. Survival time.

While a certain amount of hunkering down may be necessary, what we are learning here - on the board, with our minister, with people in the congregation - is to expand in spirit, to be the people we most respect regardless of the unknowns, to live as if our sacred lives depend on it because they do, and have our congregation do likewise, so Wy'east can be the place we hope for it to be.

Sound familiar? It is a similar message our new President brought us on January 20.

The Inauguration ceremony was imbued with the idea that hope and love and memory can help us rise to meet our challenges. All that we have: faith, hope, love, liberty, prosperity are gifts (though imperfect) bestowed upon us by our ancestors. Yet, they are not just gifts to help us. We have a responsibility to those who came before us and to future generations: to keep these ideals fresh and relevant, to expand liberty and prosperity, and to carry them forward for everyone, not just a lucky few. That is the dream and the burden of a free society: a more perfect union.

This message has resonance for Wy'east: What does religious liberty ask of us? What are we expected to do with it? We have the happy burden of sharing the UU message of spiritual exploration, religious tolerance and justice for people and the earth. This is meaningful, important work that needs to endure.

The Inaugural Poem by Elizabeth Alexander drove it home. There is a line in there which says in part, "What if the mightiest word is love Love with no need to preempt grievance." Love for its own sake, standing alone - with no reason other than it's all the worth we are here for.

Wy'east will be carried through by that spirit. Grow into it. Safe and sound.

Peace be with us all,

Mark A. @ Karl A.

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 or if you simply want to talk. She does not have a ministerial study through Wy'east, so it's best to call or email Rev. Maginn to make an appointment. She can be reached at: minister@wyeastuu.org or (503) 867-7310. Rev. Maginn *does* have phone hours, so these would be the best time to reach her. Currently, they are **Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30-1:00**. If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to wyeast-board@googlegroups.com or talk to any Board member (Karl A., Mark A., Jill D., Barbara S. or Elizabeth S.) on Sundays at church. ♦

Listen to our worships at home

We've started making audio recordings of our worship services! If you're out of town, or home ill, or teaching our children and miss a sermon, now you can listen to it later on your computer. Thanks very much to those who are helping to make the recordings happen.

All the recordings of the worships will be posted on our website on the sermons page, <http://www.wyeastuu.org/sermons.php>. You'll hear the whole worship, announcements, joys and sorrows, readings and the sermon. Most of the music won't be included for copyright reasons.

The recordings are in the mp3 format, which means any computer will be able to play it. You do probably need relatively fast Internet to download the recording. For the computer-savvy, I will eventually set up a podcast, so your computer can automatically download each week's recording.

-Anders L.

Newsletter News

Submissions for the March newsletter are due by **7 p.m. on Friday, February 20th**. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to: wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com. ♦

Anyone interested in working together on a Social Justice Committee, please see Mark or Tode.

More from the Board: Pragmatic Programming

Washington, DC is not the only location where change is taking place. It is happening at Wy'east as well.

We gather together as a congregation for various purposes: to nurture our spirits, to help heal our world a little bit at a time, and to share our vision with the wider world.

The goals of our moving to the Hollywood Senior Center (HSC) and morning services were to make a bigger difference in our community, and bring Unitarian Universalism to more people. Now that we are mostly settled into the HSC, the Board has been thinking about how to do a better job with our purposes and goals.

One idea is to make better use of our space. We rent the HSC for the whole day on Sundays, but use it mostly for the several hours around the time of the morning service. The question arises as to what else might we do - in the afternoon, for instance - to expand our offerings and broaden our impact.

Some of the ideas the board is looking at are to host programs that address our interests and concerns, but which we would not necessarily be the creators of, rather partnering with some already ongoing efforts. The sustainability movement is one area where there is both a proposal that has come our way (and sparked some of this thinking), and a natural fit with our 7th Principle, having to do with living as one with our planet.

There are many others one might imagine such as bringing UUs in the area together for some program, to heighten our visibility. Please bear in mind, if you think of possibilities and present suggestions for the board's consideration, that the goal is to grow Wy'east, both spiritually and as a community, not be the focal point for a particular agenda or point of view.

A second change, with more immediate impact, stems from our responsibility to have a deepening spiritual presence in the lives of our current members, friends and guests. To this end, we are hoping to add time for reflection directly following the service - after a break for some socializing - by having small group gatherings, wherein anyone who is interested can come together to discuss the sermon or some other topic chosen for the day. We hope we can deepen our personal, spiritual and intellectual connections.

This change brings about some practical differences in how we conduct Sundays. Although we intend to keep

the First Sunday of the month potlucks, the Second Sunday of the month Stone Soup and Salads do not measure up in value to the worth of our being together in small groups around chalices. (There are also practical reasons for this shift, such as the benefit of not having set-up and clean-up for a second pot-luck every month.) Many of us would not be able to participate in small group discussions without the availability of childcare, and we as a board are working to handle that important aspect of the change.

We firmly believe that all of the above is for the better - for ourselves, in deepening our own spiritual experience; for our guests, in sharing with them who we are in heart and soul and spirit; and for Wy'east, in becoming the congregation of our dreams.

-Mark A. & Karl A.

UU Adventures in Eating



Potluck - For February, there will be no Potluck, since we will be at Wee Works, and without access to the Hollywood Senior Center (HSC). We will continue having first of the month potlucks in March.

Restaurant Adventure - After our service on one 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.

February's **Restaurant Adventure will be February 1**, at Fleur De Lis. Please join us!

Latest from the UUA

The Commission on Appraisal has released the final text that it is proposing to the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations for the newest edition of the Principles, Purposes and Sources.

The changes are not particularly broad but there are some word changes that might be of interest.

They propose three changes to the Principles. Two express a stronger meaning with less words. The other change replaces the word "Respect" with "Reverence" at the beginning of the 7th Principle. They've also added an introductory statement that works in the word "love," and "love" does not appear in the Principles itself.

Grateful for the gift of life, we commit ourselves as member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association to embody together the transforming power of love as we covenant to honor and uphold:

- *The inherent worth and dignity of every person;*
- *Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;*
- *Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth;*
- *A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;*
- *The right of conscience and the use of democratic processes;*
- *The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;*
- *Reverence for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

As free yet interdependent congregations, we enter into this covenant, pledging to one another our mutual trust and support. Capable of both good and evil, at times we are in need of forgiveness and reconciliation. When we fall short of living up to this covenant, we will begin again in love, repair the relationship, and recommit to the promises we have made.

Here are links to more details if you are interested:

The World article says more about the other changes:
<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/128145.shtml>

Here's the text itself of Principles, Purposes and Sources (referred to as the Second Draft):

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/128147.shtml>

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 February, Tode Oshin at 503-232-6580 or tode@aracnet.com.

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.

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

Rev. Maginn has a blog! Check it out at: www.rev-susan.blogspot.com. ♦

Three Poems by Mark Alter

the ten year old girl keeps coming back
for more warmth to match her own

the four fingers on her left hand and
loosely wired brain don't bother her

it's we, the patrons of this speedy dive,
who are frightened by her wings

American War Crimes Testimony

as a Holocaust child,
unburned in the broiling ovens,
unborn in the Hell countries,

alive by geography alone -
an accident, tolerated -
not here through good graces, or
any one wishing me well,

vulnerable, still, years later,
to screaming, torture
in Iraq, and silence in America

Global Warming

suppose the Ice Age of cold greed
thawed, the seven hundred and something
American military bases melted back,

all that money going into breast feeding,
warm relations, and God broke out,
or Love, and green armies were gardeners

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

February 1 CIRCLE DANCES

Today our worship services will include dances that are simple, meditative, worshipful and open to people of all ages. No experience necessary! This will be an intergenerational service facilitated by Rev. Susan Maginn and Brian Porter (who will teach us the dances and the accompanying songs). We'll be in our children's religious education space at Wee Works Preschool - across 40th Street from the Hollywood Senior Center. There will be childcare available for children under 3. This will be a good service to invite friends. Hope to see you there!

Choir rehearsal: 9:30 a.m. at Wee Works Preschool

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

Youth Group (High School Age): 11:30 a.m. at Wee Works Preschool

Restaurant Adventure: 11:40 at Fleur De Lis cafe

February 8 SPIRITUAL TOOLS FOR TROUBLED TIMES

There are so many concerns that affect us these days, from the economy to personal or family issues. Through examples from a number of faith traditions, Nancy will outline how spirituality can help us live more fully in these troubled times. Dr. Nancy Reeves is a Canadian clinical psychologist, spiritual director, and author. Known for her practical information, heart-warming stories, and lively manner, she has been theme presenter at Seabeck Eliot.

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.

Discussion Group: "Living in Tough Times" 11:40 a.m.

February 15 HOW CAN IT ALL END?

What happens when we die? There are so many ways that people conceptualize immortality and life after death. The way we envision what happens after death will shape the way we live today. Service 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.

February 22 TAIZE SONG AND PRAYER

More than a hundred brothers from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds from 30 countries live in a community in Taize, France, dedicating themselves to love and service. Thousands of visitors flock to Taize each year to join the brothers in song, chanting and prayer three times a day in this reverent, meditative worship style that has become popular throughout the world. Today, we partake in this beautiful Taize style of worship. *This service is rescheduled from December due to the snowstorm.*

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.

February 2009 — Calendar of Events

* Unless noted by an asterisk, all events are at the Hollywood Senior Center at 1820 NE 40th.

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
^February 1st events will be at Wee Works Preschool, across the street from the HSC						
1 9:30 am Choir rehearsal^ 10:30 am Service & K-8th Grade RE^ 11:30 am Youth Group (High School)^ 11:40 am Restaurant Adventure	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30 am Service & K-8th Grade RE 11:30 am Youth Group (High School) 11:30 am Social Hour	9	10	11 7:15pm Board meeting	12	13	14
15 9:30 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am Service & K-8th Grade RE 11:30 am Youth Group (High School) 11:30 am Social Hour	16	17	18	19	20 7pm Newsletter Deadline	21
22 9:15 am R.E. meeting 10:30 am Service & K-8th Grade RE 11:30 am Youth Group (High School) 11:30 am Social Hour	23	24	25	26	27	28

503-777-3704 office@wyeastuu.org www.wyeastuu.org



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

Return Service Requested