



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]

January 2009

What's Inside?

DRE News

...Page 2...

Something New

...Page 3...

Wy'east Social

Action

...Page 3...

Sunday Services

...Page 5...

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

Reveries ♦♦♦

By Rev. Susan Maginn

There is a so much excitement at Wy'east among our newcomers as well as our long time membership.

Can you feel it? We are a congregation that is up to something big.

One of the many things that I love about being a minister is that I get to imagine our congregation's future: what we hope to become and how we can best get there.

Right now we are imagining June of 2009... I know, it is many months and many raindrops away, but here is why we are looking so far ahead.

For the last couple years, Wy'east has been depending upon a district loan to support our operating budget. In June 2009, the loan will end and we will become a self-sustaining congregation. It is time for us to leave the nest, and I have no doubt that we will. It will take a strong commitment from all of us to make it so, but as I have learned in my time with you, showing a strong commitment is nothing new for Wy'east.

I have been amazed by what we have accomplished in the short time that I have been around Wy'east. We have had our stumbles, but what has happened this past fall is truly remarkable. The odds were stacked high against us, and yet we changed location and worship time. We have done it relatively swiftly and quite gracefully.

When I look toward June 2009 and even far beyond, I envision Wy'east as a beacon for spiritual healing and awakening, for the goodness of our days and for generations to come.

Can you see it too?

--Susan



DRE News

You may have heard that last month Christine W. passed the Director of Religious Education (DRE) torch onto Annie H. Thank you, Christine, for doing so much to organize and grow Wy'east's Religious Education program this past year! Christine will be the DRE for Eastrose Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Gresham, and she will have an occasional Sunday morning off so she will be able to come back to visit now and then.

Unfortunately, snowy weather on December 14th kept us from formally recognizing Christine's service to the Wy'east community. If you would like to send her a card or memento, bring them to the service on January 4th and give them to Laura R., who will collect and deliver the cards to Christine.

We are fortunate that Annie H. will be our new DRE! Annie comes to us from New Hampshire, where she was Program Director at a before and after-school program for K-8th graders. Before that, she lived in California, where she taught 4th grade, special education, and religious education. At her Unitarian Universalist church in Laguna Beach, she also coordinated the RE program. Annie has a Master's in Education and is substitute teaching in the public school system in Vancouver, Washington until she finds a permanent position there. It is wonderful that her teaching schedule will allow her to also serve Wy'east. Next time you're at church, be sure to introduce yourself to Annie and warmly welcome her to our congregation!

As always, if you have any questions or comments, talk to Annie or anyone on the RE Committee: Sharron, Gina, or Laura.

Yours in Faith,

Gina, Sharron, & Laura

UU Adventures in Eating



We will start having our **usual first Sunday of the month potlucks**, beginning with brunch following our first Sunday morning service at the Hollywood Senior Center on January 4th.

For Stone Soup and Salad Sundays on the second Sundays of the month, however, there will be some changes. First, we will only be able to serve **Stone Salad on the second Sundays** (starting on January 11th), because the kitchen is so close to the worship space that the aroma from the soup pot would be distracting to the service, as would our work in the kitchen.

So, here's a good solution: if everyone brings their veggie contributions for Stone Salad Sundays already cut up, we can throw them together in the big salad bowl at the end of the service. We'll mix it all up, while you're setting up the tables and chairs. It should all work out just fine. Or, instead, bring side dishes, bread, desserts or beverages to complete these looked-forward-to meals.

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.

Our **monthly Restaurant Adventure is now 4th Sunday** of each month, instead of the 3rd Sunday. Please join us!

Something New

Starting in January, Rev. Susan will start an experiment. She will pick a lectionary reading as one source of inspiration (among many) for her sermons. For those of you who are not familiar with a lectionary, it is a three-year calendar that covers many of the Bible's great teachings. Every week the lectionary selects four readings: a passage from the Hebrew Scriptures, a Psalm, a passage from the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) and another from the letters of Paul. Susan will pick just one to include in the worship service, along with a poem or prosaic passage that resonates with the theme for the day.

If you are interested in Bible study, you might want to know that she'll be using the Revised Common Lectionary from Vanderbilt Divinity Library, which is highly regarded by us academic and liberal religious types. You can look at the lectionary readings at <http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary>

On the first Sunday of every month the **membership book** will be open for those who are ready to become members of Wy'east.



For those considering membership, there is a **Path to Membership class** on January 4th and January 11th from 7-9 (see below)

In the spring, during a worship service, there will be a ceremony to officially welcome our new members.

Path to Membership

Path to Membership will be on **Sunday Jan. 4** and **Jan. 11, 7-9 p.m.** at Hollywood Senior Center. 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. Pre-register at the Welcome Table on Sundays, or just attend.

If you are new to Unitarian Universalism, contact Rev. Susan Maginn about an introduction for newcomers.

Minister's Discretionary Fund

There is some money set aside to help people at Wy'east who are struggling financially. If you are in need and would like to talk more about this, please contact Rev. Susan Maginn.

Wy'east Social Action

Feed The Spirit! Bring Cans for The Food Bank!

As Wy'east continues Feed The Spirit, our efforts to alleviate hunger in Portland, we will have a collection bin at our worship services for the Oregon Food Bank.

The Eggar family will bring our donation bin to the Hollywood Senior Center each week in January. When the bin fills up they will bring the donations to the Food Bank. If you or your family would be interested in 'tending to the bin' some other month, let Rev. Susan know.



The Oregon Food Bank says that they are greatly in need of the following: canned meats, stew, chili, vegetables and fruits, canned or dried beans and peas, canned or boxed meals, peanut butter, pasta, rice cereal and 100 percent fruit juice.

Let's help keep the Food Bank well stocked this winter for all those who need it!

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.

Contacting the Minister and Board of Trustees

Rev. Susan Maginn is available to talk with you if you are new to Wy'cast or Unitarian Universalism or if you simply want to talk. She does not have a ministerial study through Wy'cast, so it's best to call or email Rev. Maginn to make an appointment. She can be reached at: minister@weyecastuu.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'cast Board of Trustees, you can send an email to weyecast-board@googlegroups.com or talk to any Board member (Karl A., Mark A., Jill D., Barbara S. or Elizabeth S.) on Sundays at church. ♦

Worship Odds & Ends

In our new location, it will be helpful for long-time Wy'casters to sit **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 January, John MacDuffee. ♦

More Tidbits for New Members and Others

Get your name in the **directory** and on the Wy'cast **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. ♦

AGM Volunteers Wanted

Attendees at AGM 2009 (our district's Annual General Meeting) in Salem, Oregon, February 20-22 2009, can receive a rebate of \$66 for volunteering at least six hours. Sign up with Laura Stine, the Volunteer Coordinator, either by phone: 503-364-2849, by email: lstine@ide-nw.org, or by mail: Laura Stine, 1635 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97301.

UU Workshop: The Enneagram in Relationships

What's My Type?

Friday, January 23, 2009 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Friday is an educational group introduction to all nine types to help you identify your own type. Copies of the best Enneagram assessment tool and text on the market today will be available for \$10.

How Does My Type Affect My Relationships?

Saturday, January 24, 2009 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday will focus on the types in relationship, which evokes the potential for understanding, and growth in both personal and professional relationships.

Dale Rhodes is a mentor and spiritual director who skillfully interweaves psychology, spirituality, and professional experience in his work. Dale is a Certified Trainer of the Enneagram through the Enneagram Professional Training Program®, taught by pioneer authors in the field, Helen Palmer and David Daniels, MD. Dale is an Enneagram 4.

COST: Friday only: \$15; Saturday (includes Fri): \$60
Saturday includes beverages and snack. Bring your own lunch.

WHERE: Michael Servetus UU Fellowship, 4505 E. 18th, Vancouver, WA 98661

To register, contact GretchenMeyer@comcast.net
360-608-8572. www.msuuf.org

Newsletter News

Submissions for the February newsletter are due by **7 p.m. on Friday, January 22nd**. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to: weyecast-news-editor@googlegroups.com. ♦

So Much Space, So Much Time



We have access to the Hollywood Senior Center from early in the morning to late in the evening every Sunday. We are considering a variety of uses throughout the day to strengthen our faith community: a healing circle with prayer, meditation and chant; classes on spiritual development; chalice circles; and performances. We are planning to send out a survey soon to hear your ideas and preferences. Stay tuned.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

January 4 BE NOT AFRAID

We could easily assume that a courageous person somehow overcomes fear. Truly courageous people are often terrified, but they do not let their fear stop them. They move forward with their fear. In today's sermon, I'll look at how fear, courage and faith can intersect to sustain and inspire us. Service 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.

First Sunday Potluck: 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

January 11 THE AFRICAN PRESENCE IN THE BIBLE: NO AFRICA, NO BIBLE?

Several African-American scholars worked diligently over the years to recover the Bible's wealth of information about Africa, and particularly about Egypt. Emily will share with us the information she gleaned - to present the story of a continent with thriving cities and a social code which welcomed strangers in need. In addition, she will speak about the Bible's "Black" heroes and address the phenomenon of intermarriage resulting in the possibility that Jesus himself was "Black." Emily Champagne was graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry and served UU congregations in La Canada (near Los Angeles), the California Sierra Foothills, and Reno, NV. She then returned to school, where received an M.A. degree in Biblical Languages from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and then completed the PhD class work at the Claremont Graduate University.

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.

Second Sunday Stone Salad Brunch: Bring a vegetable (CHOPPED) to church for the meal. Bread, side dishes and desserts are appreciated too.

January 18 THE GOLDEN RULE

All around the world we see religion blamed for some of humanity's most horrendous crimes. In the name of religion, violence is justified. And yet, all of the world's major religions teach us charity and compassion. Is religion abusing humanity or is humanity abusing religion? 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.

January 25 WY'EAST READERS' THEATRE

Join us for a service of storytelling and performance exploring Unitarian Universalist life and what that means! Lead by Katy Michel and a coterie of Wy'easters.

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: 12:00 noon. Location to be announced during social hour.

January 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.
				1	2	3
4 10:30 am Service & K-8th Grade RE 11:30 am Youth Group (High School) 11:30 am Potluck	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:30 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am Service & K-8th Grade RE 11:30 am Youth Group (High School) 11:30 am Stone Salad Brunch	12	13	14 7:15pm Board meeting	15	16	17
18 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	19	20	21	22	23 7pm Newsletter Deadline	24
25 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 12:00 pm Restaurant Adventure	26	27	28	29	30	31

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