



# 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]

June 2009

## What's Inside?

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

The **parking lot of  
the U.S. Bank**  
around the corner is  
available for Wy'east  
on Sundays. That's at  
the corner of Northeast  
41st Avenue and  
Hancock Street. Please  
make use of it!

## Reveries ♦ ♦ ♦

By Rev. Susan Maginn

*Wy'east is where we are reminded of the quiet within and of the sacred all around. We are looking at each other and looking out into the world, facing our real need for intimacy and for ultimacy.*

The leaders at Wy'east have not forgotten this. Even now, in this time of transforming our budget from one that pulls heavily on savings to one that is a true reflection of who we are and what we have to give. We are getting real. With lesser leaders, such a time would be the hour when we pick up our toys and go home, but I am elated to report that we are creating a budget and a worship calendar for next year (fiscal year, starting in July) that is not only true to who we are and what we have to give, but it is also true to who we want to become.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Sunday Sermons

- June 7      **PASSAGES**, Rev. Susan Maginn
- June 14     **DRUM CIRCLE FOR THE SPIRIT**, Paul Evans
- June 21     **FATHERHOOD AND FATHERS**
- June 28     **HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING**, Rev. Sarah Schurr

*(For sermon details, see "A Month of Sundays", on Page 5)*

## Before & After Worship Programming in June

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in July, please contact Rev. Susan Maginn at [susan.maginn@gmail.com](mailto:susan.maginn@gmail.com).

### JUNE 7

- **Choir Rehearsal** 9:30 am
- **Potluck Lunch** - bring a dish to share, help set up tables and clean dishes.
- **Poetry Circle:** Bring a favorite poem or two (or more!) to read and share in a small group after the Potluck -- or just come to listen. Led by Tim M.
- **Sermon Discussion** 11:45 a.m.

### JUNE 14

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am
- **Outing to the Portland Rose Garden** after services

### JUNE 21

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am
- **Sermon Discussion** 11:45 a.m.

### JUNE 28

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** 11:40 am

## Newsletter News

Submissions for the combined July/August newsletter are due by **7 p.m. on Friday, June 19th**. 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).

## Wy'east Parking

The **parking lot of the U.S. Bank** around the corner is available for Wy'east on Sundays. That's at the corner of **Northeast 41st Avenue** and **Hancock Street**. Please make use of it!

## 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@wyeastuu.org](mailto:minister@wyeastuu.org)

If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to [wyeast-board@googlegroups.com](mailto: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. ♦

## 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 June, Tim M.

The Wy'east worship committee is always dreaming up **new ideas** for services, speakers and activities. To share ideas or help bring services to life, contact us at [wyeast-worship@googlegroups.com](mailto:wyeast-worship@googlegroups.com) or talk to Tim M., Alex R., Elizabeth S., Charlotte G. or Terry B.

## 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.

## From the DRE

Here is a riddle for you...*what starts out smaller than a breadbox, but becomes a thousand times bigger in one morning?*

Give up?

*-Your heart, when you volunteer to work with children!*

Ready for another? How can you take two holidays in one day, and make them into three?



The answer: *By being the first one to volunteer!* Sunday, June 21st is not only Father's Day, it is also the first day of summer. You can turn it into a third holiday by treating yourself to "A day with the Wy'cast kids." Think of it! You could take all that fancy training you yourself had in summer camps of old, and relive your childhood just by weaving together a keychain! What fun!

So, don't wait for someone else to nab your childhood memories before you can get to them! From June 21st through August, you can have the chance to touch a child's life while simultaneously revisiting your own camp memories. And if all goes well, you might even land yourself a new key chain!

PLEASE SIGN UP IMMEDIATELY!!!! (Remember, it takes a village...) We need the love and support of all our members, not just our parents. It really is fun and if you're low on ideas, I can give you "a bag of summer fun," which will contain all the makings and instructions for a fun arts-and-crafts activity.

Although I will be in and out throughout the summer, (I plan to do some traveling), I am still your DRE and I can always be contacted by phone or email. My summer plans before leaving are to have fun-bags ready for those of you who wish to volunteer but do not have a craft-plan at hand. While away, I will continue to write this column and I will also be researching curriculum ideas for the upcoming months. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions to make our religious education even better, I'd love to hear them.

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

In Faith,

*Annie H.*

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

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, and 28 acres on the river under starry nights.

Registration: **Deadline is June 7th**

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

## UU Adventures in Eating

**Potluck** – Join us for our **First Sunday Brunch** on June 7th after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share.



**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 4 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)

In the last year, the leadership has had a couple opportunities to listen to Wy'east friends and members. And this listening has shaped the vision that is currently being created. The nature of this year's canvass with small group and one-on-one conversations opened up this sharing. (Thank you, Debra T, Tode O, Jo F. and Anders L!) The survey that was taken a couple months ago also gave us the opportunity to hear from you. (Thank you, Jon B!)

Overwhelmingly what we heard is that Wy'east friends and members want more opportunities to engage with one another, the kind of engagement that is not going to happen during a traditional worship service (sitting silently while listening to a sermon), and often doesn't happen during social hour either. When we are truly connecting with one another, then we are reflecting on the big theological yearnings - to understand our place in the world, to understand what grounds and inspires us through our days.

The upshot of all this is that we are going to start having worship services that reflect this priority. Here's what it will look like. This fall, I am going to be involved in two services each month, just like I am now. However, since there is less money for my income, I am working 1/3 time instead of 1/2 time. So we are looking for ways for me to work less and yet still be present at Wy'east. As you can imagine, we need to be creative about how this is done.

Here is what we have come up with. One monthly service will be a time for me to lead a traditional worship service (with sermon). For the other monthly service, I will lead a "Chalice Circle Sunday". On these Sundays, we will have many of the familiar elements of a worship service (opening words, hymns, chalice lighting). There will be a reading on a particular theme for that day - for example, could be about Generosity, Patience, Brokenness, Gratitude or a whole host of other themes. The reading will be followed by simple questions meant to elicit a time of listening deeply to one another, as people share how the spirit is moving in your life, deepening your understanding of this particular theme. It is not a time for debate or even a time for discussion, but rather a time of deep reflecting and deep listening.

Facilitating these groups will take preparation, but not the usual 15 hours of preparation that I tend to put into

a traditional worship service. With this new format, I'll be able to still be with you twice a month and hopefully do a better job of strengthening the bonds among you.

In January, the board, the worship committee and I will revisit this arrangement to assess how these new ideas are going, to see if we have additional funds to return my position to 1/2 time, and to see if our chalice circle worship services are something that we want to continue.

How good it is when inevitable change can bring clarity about what is at our core. How *great* it is when we see our core and are surprised and delighted by the strength we find there!

—Susan

## Rev. Maginn has a blog!

Check it out at: [www.rev-susan.blogspot.com](http://www.rev-susan.blogspot.com).

## 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 June. 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 for all those who need it!**

## 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 S.

## A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

### June 7 PASSAGES

With song and story and ritual, we will honor the many passages that have made this church year special. This is our Flower Communion Sunday, a lovely ceremony that dates back to our eastern European Unitarian roots. On this Sunday, bring a flower (or three!) to the worship service. 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.

**First Sunday Brunch:** 11:30 a.m. bring a potluck dish to share.

**Poetry Circle:** 11:45 a.m.

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

### June 14 DRUM CIRCLE FOR THE SPIRIT

With the pulse of a beat, people have been making a statement of humanity and grandness longer than we have been able to speak. By drumming together, we connect with an ancient practice and set the spirit among us in motion today. Please join us as **Paul Evans**, musician and artist, leads us in a participatory drum circle. The service is designed for adults, and no experience is necessary. Paul will lead a circle to include children after the service.

**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. Today children age 2 and up will celebrate the end of the year together with ice cream making and fun.

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

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

### June 21 FATHERHOOD AND FATHERS

Today we honor the fathers who are among us, who are living on in our hearts and who are yet to be made. We ask fathers and mothers -- grown children themselves -- to share their experiences, memories and wisdom.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m.

**Wy'Camp:** Pre-K and up (all kids above age 2 are welcome): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to WeeWorks for a fun activity. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

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

### June 28 HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

A special song can remind us of an important day or a theme in our lives. In this unique service, selected members and friends of Wy'east will share their feelings about special hymns and songs in their spiritual life. **Rev. Sarah Schurr**, a founding member of Wy'east, will lead this music-filled service. While a member of our community she received her theological training at Marylhurst University and did her parish internship at the UU Fellowship of Corvallis, where she was ordained last fall. She currently works at Parkinson's Resources of Oregon and is a regular guest preacher around the district.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m.

**Wy'Camp:** Pre-K and up (all kids above age 2 are welcome): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to WeeWorks for a fun activity. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

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

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surprised and delighted by the strength we find there!*



Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
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