



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*]

March 2009

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

Reveries ♦♦♦

By Rev. Susan Maginn

All of the world's religions teach the importance of being generous. There are multiple Biblical lessons about leaving a percentage of your crops in the field for the most vulnerable among us.

We Unitarian Universalists don't have a central teaching on generosity, but I bet most of us will agree that being a generous person is a key part of spiritual health. When we do not have enough attention to spare or money to spare, then chances are we are just getting by – financially and spiritually.

If we aren't careful, most of us can easily live beyond our means. Our lives can be overscheduled with meeting our household's bottom line. Mortgage companies are all too happy to tell you that an overwhelming percentage of your income can and should be put toward a house payment. And if you 'buy into' their formula, there is little left for generosity after the basic bills are paid. *(Continued on page 6)*

Sunday Sermons

- March 1 **WELCOMING THE STRANGER**, Rev. Susan Maginn
- March 8 **CONNECTING TO THE REAL WORLD**,
Alex R. & Ellen G.
- March 15 **TWO OF YOU HELD IN ONE MOMENT**, Rev. Susan Maginn
- March 22 **STORIES, MEANING, AND MAGIC**, Rev. Barbara Stevens
- March 29 **FULLY LISTENING**, Rev. Patti Pomerantz

(For sermon details, see "A Month of Sundays", on Page 7)

From the DRE



Greetings! As I write this, February is coming to a close and spring and (more) daylight will soon make their way back into our lives to brighten our spirits once again!

The age 3-5, as well as the 6-8 year-old curriculum currently being utilized is nearing to a close, so I want to let you know what new things we will be focusing on in the coming months.

The 3-5 group is learning from “We are Many We are One” UU Preschool curriculum. We are close to finishing this book and will move on to “Our World Our Rights”, as well as other UU curriculum—also specially designed for their age group. We will also be learning about various spring-based festivals and celebrations throughout the world. I will continue to update you on our learning experience in each newsletter.

As for the 6-8 year olds, we have just finished a session called: “The Journey Home”, which is located on the UUA website. The next session is “Moral Tales,” which I am very excited about. The goals of this session are to help children develop empathy for other living beings, to teach them to see themselves as part of the larger whole, and to learn how to form their own communities with their peers and leaders.

Speaking of communities...we as an RE community are in urgent need of classroom and childcare volunteers. We are looking for parents—and others—to volunteer one Sunday every 6 weeks or so. You will not need to do anything to plan ahead, except to get ready for an exciting hour with some great kids! The lesson plan and anything else you may need will be waiting there for you. Please see Annie Hailley, RE Director, to sign up for your hour of fun!

I am very excited about the new faces at the Hollywood Senior Center, and at Wee Works and the learning journey we are about to share.

I don't think anybody really knew for sure what moving to a new place, and a new time would mean with regard to the numbers in our congregation. It thrills me to see all the old and new faces at Wee Works that brighten my Sunday morning!

As always, it is an honor and a joy to work with your children and I thank you!

Yours in Faith,

—Annie

Wy'east Helping Hand Services

Have you helped friends with moving or with a ride? Wy'easters have done this often, and the recipients of such help have sometimes given Wy'east a donation in recognition of their appreciation. Now we all have an opportunity to participate, by putting ourselves on a list showing the kinds of things we can do for each other, along with suggested donations (because we do want this effort to raise funds for Wy'east Congregation as well as making it easy to get and to give help).

Some possible services might be:

- yard/garden work;
- household help;
- minor “fix-it” repairs;
- computer aid;
- setting up for digital TV;
- shopping;
- meal preparing;
- organizing (office/closet/garage);
- editing;
- pet sitting,
- transportation, etc.



Be thinking of all the abilities and expertise you have that you'd be willing to share. Nothing is too small or too unusual! Be thinking, also, of the things you need help with.

We'll circulate forms for you to list your skills, expertise, preferences, and needs. All the information will be collected into a master list. Wy'east member Betsy M. has offered to keep this list and be the resource coordinator you can contact to add/change the list, and to request the help you want.

*I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can
do something. And I will not let
what I cannot do interfere with
what I can do.*

— Edward Everett Hale

After Worship Programming in March

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in April, please contact Rev. Susan Maginn at susan.maginn@gmail.com.

MARCH 1

- **Potluck Lunch** - bring a dish to share, help set up tables and clean dishes. *During the potluck:*
 - Kids' Zone: Kids of all ages, join Liana A., in the left-hand corner of the room, in fun movement exercises and other activities.
- **Intro to Unitarian Universalism** - sit and eat lunch with our minister, Susan Maginn
- 12:30 **Welcoming the Stranger:** Bible study group (see description of study questions on the right)

MARCH 8

- **Social Hour**
- **Oregon Healthy Climate Partnership** hosts a letter-writing event at Wy'East. All are welcome to stay and urge state legislators to support or reject Gov. Kulongoski's climate package. Its fate is being decided in the next month or so and our input is vital.

MARCH 15

- **Social Hour**
- 11:45 **Parent Support Group: Fostering Peace at Home.** Childcare provided, bring a snack for your child.
- 2pm **Games Extravaganza!** Board and card games for all ages.

MARCH 22

- **Restaurant Adventure**
- **Discussion group** about sermon

MARCH 29

- **Social Hour**
- 11:45 **Living in Tough Times** - 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. Wy'east member Gina O., who is a psychologist at the Portland VA Medical Center, will facilitate the group. Childcare provided, bring a snack for your child.

As we are getting more and more ideas of how to use the Hollywood Senior Center space, we are ready to have someone keep a **google calendar** for the congregation.

Anyone interested in putting Wy'east happenings in a google calendar? If so, contact a board member.

Bible Study Session

On March 1 Rev. Susan Maginn will host a Bible study session after the worship service titled "Welcoming The Stranger."

If you would like to participate, please read the following passages of Genesis and ask yourself:

- How does the character of God view strangers?
- What can these stories teach us about who the 'strangers' are in our culture today?
- How might we (as individuals, as Wy'east) be called to treat strangers?

Genesis 3:22-24 Adam and Eve uprooted from the garden and forced out

Genesis 4:8-15 Cain becomes a wanderer on the earth

Genesis 12:1 Abraham, called to leave his home and go to a new land

Gen 18:1-15 Abraham welcomes the strangers

Genesis 23:4 Abraham looks for a burial place for Sarah in a strange land

Genesis 37-46 Joseph sold into slavery in a strange land

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

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.



From the Board

Surveying Our Ambitions

As a community, Wy'east seeks to be a place for spiritual exploration, religious education for our children (and adults), personal growth, musical inspiration, and a community for sharing our joys, sorrows, hopes, fears and the little things in between that constitute life.

I think this is a fairly accurate description of what has become our ambitious congregation. Sunday worship services are important for fulfilling many of these goals, but Sunday worship alone probably cannot satisfy these goals for everyone all the time. Like many congregations, we have offered occasional events and activities, such as last year's chalice circles, a men's group, Chanukah party and other educational events.

We would like to make the best use we can of our new space at the Hollywood Senior Center. We recently did a survey to see how people would like us to use our new space on Sunday afternoons and evenings. We received about 18 responses, which is good considering our size.

Generally, most people would prefer to have events after the Sunday worship service, but there was some support for events later on Sunday afternoons or evenings. People expressed interest in a wide range of events: mediation groups, adult education classes, sermon discussions, family events. Other suggestions were art projects, music activities and cooking classes.

I am glad for this diversity of ideas. One of the strengths I am seeing in Wy'east is our ability to express and contemplate different ideas, and to appreciate each other's diverse thinking. I personally would never have thought of a cooking class, but I can see that such an idea might be fun and meaningful for some people, including some youth.

The main point is the Board wants to offer a variety of educational, entertaining and community-building events, just as our worship services present a variety of spiritual practices and perspectives. We will try different activities and events – we hope some things will work well. Some may not, and that's OK. Perfection is not our ambition. What's important is that we act as a community, exploring, learning, and inspiring.

– *Karl A.*, Board Moderator

Taking Care of Wy'east's Money

With the current state of the nation's economy, and the upcoming Wy'east canvass, it seems appropriate to take a little time to share with you the state of Wy'east's economy.

Wy'east's budget for the current fiscal year is a little over \$64,000. A little over \$44,000 is in the form of real income (pledges, donations, fundraising, etc.); a little under \$20,000 is from savings. Our biggest expenses are personnel and rent, which together make up nearly 75% of our budgeted expenses.

At the end of December we were halfway through our fiscal year. I am pleased to report that pledge income is coming in at a faster pace than we budgeted. This is partly due to some mid year pledges, but is mainly due to everybody making payments on their pledges – for which I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Expenses are running very close to what we projected. The result is that we have had to take less from savings than we expected. This is very good news.

The board is very careful with our money. Each month there is a treasurer's report and we talk about how the money is being spent. We track each line item, making sure we understand when certain lines are over budget, and where we can stay under budget in other places to keep the budget balanced overall. One place where income is falling short is fundraising. Any ideas, and especially any offers to help with fundraising would be much appreciated. I will be happy to share copies of the most recent treasurer's report with anyone who is interested.

I am pleased to report that we have collected \$1,100 at our special collections so far – even though December was snowed out. We have split that money between 5 recipients. It is good that we are generous to those in need as well as to ourselves.

– *Barbara S.*, Treasurer

A Board Proposal

Since Wy'east rents the Hollywood Senior Center space all day on Sundays, but currently does not usually have programming which runs past approximately 1:30 PM, we will consider co-hosting events which a Wy'easter wants to sponsor, organize, and take responsibility for. Please contact a Board member if you have an idea or a request.

UU Adventures in Eating



Potluck – Join us for our **First Sunday Brunch** on March 1st 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 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.

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 March, Tim M.

Newsletter News

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

You are invited to the UU Declaration of Interdependence Family Camp!

MISSION: To provide UU's from the Pacific Northwest a sustainable and affordable retreat, in honor of our 7th Principle, our "blue boat home." This camp offers an opportunity to share multi-generational fellowship, while rekindling our spirits and celebrating interdependence. Rich offerings of music, play, spiritual practices at sustainable earth-friendly camp in an alcohol-free setting with UU Chaplain on-site.

WHAT: 2nd Annual UU Celebration of Interdependence Family Camp

WHEN: 4th of July Weekend, Thursday, July 2 to Sunday, July 5

WHERE: Camp Cedar Ridge in Vernonia, 40 miles west of Portland in the Tillamook Forest



WHO: Sponsored by UCCWC in Hillsboro. Come join us!

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-forested acres on the river, under magical starry skies.

Registration opens April 15. For more information, please go online to www.uccwc.org/familycamp

Or contact the folks that came from your church last year! Paul and Linda Jo

Or call Sara Cloe, RE

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).

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. ♦

Reveries

(continued from page 1)

Some religions have a financial formula of their own. They tell members to arrange their lives such that they can give a percentage of their income to the religion. In the Bible, when people give away 10% of their income it is called tithing.

My favorite version of tithing is for people to give away 5-10% of their income to charities of their choice. Half of that money goes to their house of worship and the other half goes to other charities of their choosing.

Most of us did not grow up in tithing traditions and so if we like the idea of giving away 5-10% of our income as a matter of spiritual practice, we are going to have to really reorganize how we spend our money. These changes can take a long time to fully implement, but it can be fun creating a long-range plan to grow in generosity toward the organizations whose mission are an expression of your own heart's longing.

Maybe tithing is something Wy'east could start looking at as an organization. What percentage of Wy'east's income are we giving away? Would we like to give away more?

In the past Wy'east has not asked those who pledge if their pledge is a certain percentage of your income. However, if you like this idea of working toward a percentage, you'll have the option to declare what percentage you give to Wy'east on this year's pledge form.

The average pledge at Wy'east is around \$100 each month. In addition, I would say that majority of people at Wy'east donate at least an hour of their time to Wy'east every week. Some people give a whole lot more. Some give less. All is perfect. And received with delight and gratitude.

—Susan

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@weyeastuu.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 weyeast-board@googlegroups.com or talk to any Board member (Karl A., Mark A., Jill D., Barbara S. or Elizabeth S.) on Sundays at church. ♦

What are you reading?

Betsy M.:

Correcting the Landscape, by Marjorie Kowalski Cole (*Winner of Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction*). In Fairbanks, Alaska, the editor of a new weekly newspaper tries to maintain his honest presentation of events, and finds that there are differing views of changes, from a mix of the regions' dwellers. The paper must have financial support from advertisers and public notices, as well as subscribers. The portrayal of community and personal life in Alaska somehow brings it home more than our recognition of the bigger picture.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows. During WWII, the Channel Islands (British) were Nazi occupied. After the war, a writer inadvertently becomes personally interested in the people there, and gradually becomes involved in their lives. A jewel-like multi-faceted story that seems absolutely real. A gift to us all!

AMEN: The Diary of Rabbi Martin Siegel, edited by Mel Ziegler. *A real diary*. Rabbi Siegel moved from a small southern congregation to an affluent one on Long Island (N.Y.) in 1968. Siegel dealt with crisis in the N.Y. schools, disruptive conflict involving the teachers' union and the City of N.Y. and more, somehow remaining true to the Jewish ideals while facing the part of his community that valued status and appearance. At the same time, his personal overload was having serious effects on his wife and family. This is thought provoking from several angles that I had not known about. Hard to put down!

All 3 books available at Multnomah County Library

Janelle S.:

The Green Truck Garden Giveaway : A Neighborhood Story and Almanac, by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. "The tale of two strangers who drive a green truck down Second Street and offer to give away gardens. This book's almanac entries will help you grow bucket gardens or butterfly gardens and tell you the history of some vegetables." (www.jacquelinebriggsmartin.com)

On Meadowview Street, by Henry Cole. "Caroline lives on Meadowview Street. But where's the meadow? Where's the view? There's nothing growing in her front yard except grass. Then she spots a flower and a butterfly and a bird and Caroline realizes that with her help, maybe Meadowview Street can have a meadow after all." (www.harpercollins.com)

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

March 1 WELCOMING THE STRANGER

We'll look at what the book of Genesis has to teach us about the sacred art of hospitality -being a host and being a weary traveler. 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. **Kids' Zone:** 11:30 a.m.

Welcoming the Stranger Bible Study: 12:30 p.m.

March 8 CONNECTING TO THE REAL WORLD

Does our relationship with nature feed our spirits? Are we doing right by the interconnected web of life? Such questions and others will be in play as we view Deep Presence, a peaceful video meditation on the natural world of the Pacific Northwest. Alex R. and Ellen G. will be the worship leaders. After the service, the Oregon Healthy Climate Partnership will run a letter-writing event at Wy'east. All are welcome to stay and urge state legislators to support or reject Gov. Kulongoski's climate package. Not to be competitive, but it would do California's greenhouse gas controls one better! Its fate is being decided in the next month or so and our input is vital.

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.

March 15 TWO OF YOU HELD IN ONE MOMENT

The mythology, reality and wanna be's of love, sex and intimacy. 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.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Peace at Home Discussion for Parents: 11:45 a.m. **Games Extravaganza:** 2 p.m.

March 22 STORIES, MEANING, AND MAGIC

Facts may give us information about the world, but they don't help us make sense of it. To "make sense," we need stories, myth, and magic. Stories and myths, those fables that aren't "real," offer truths that enrich our lives, help us create meaning, and teach us how to live. Rev. Barbara Stevens is the consulting minister at Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship and an affiliated minister at Eastrose Fellowship in Gresham. She works as a chaplain at Providence hospital on the inpatient chemical dependency unit.

Choir rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.

Service: 10:30 a.m. **Religious Education** (Pre-K-8th Grade): This is a teacher holiday, so there will be a multi-age activity at Wee Works rather than regular classes.

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

Restaurant Adventure: 11:40 a.m. Location to be announced during social hour. **Sermon Discussion:** 11:45 a.m.

March 29 FULLY LISTENING

"As a community organizer, President Barack Obama knows the importance of listening - and I admire him for that. Listening is one of the most important tools for my work as well, and something about which I'm always learning. As our culture changes almost in the blink of an eye, it's a skill we all need to hone. I'll share some of the things I've learned and techniques I've been using to improve." Portland UU minister, The Reverend Patti Pomerantz brings her Jewish upbringing, her Quaker training, and her passion for peacemaking through interfaith work to Unitarian Universalist ministry. She enjoys visiting local congregations as she explores with them the challenges of being Unitarian Universalist in today's world. She is a spiritual director at the Interfaith Spiritual Center in North Portland, chairs the PNWD Addictions Ministry team and will be presenting a workshop on caregiver grief at the spring conference of Parkinson's Resources of Oregon.

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. **Living in Tough Times:** 11:45 a.m.

March 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 9:30 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am Service & K-8th Grade RE 11:30 am Youth Group (High School) 11:30 am Potluck	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 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	9	10	11	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 9:30 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am Service & K-8th Grade RE 11:30 am Youth Group (High School) 11:40 am Restaurant Adventure	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:30 am Service & K-8th Grade RE 11:30 am Youth Group (High School) 11:30 am Social Hour						

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