

The Wy'east Beacon

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Whoever you are,
Wherever you come from
You are welcome here

What's Inside?

New Religious Education Teacher
...Page 2...

Wy'east Special Collections
...Page 4...

2 Months of Sundays
...Page 6-7...

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

It seems like it was not long ago that I was arriving in Portland, settling into my new life here and getting to know the people of Wy'east. As I prepare for the time when I will leave Wy'east on June 30th, I realize that saying good-bye will not be easy. As I have moved into Wy'east, you have moved into my heart. I have come to love this community and to be delighted by how Wy'east has strengthened in recent years.

The strength of Wy'east did not start with me, and it will not stop when I leave. As we imagine what life will be like at Wy'east after I leave, it is a perfect

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

3/7	On Dropping	UU Group Of Reed College
3/14	Radical Homemaking	Rev. Susan Maginn
3/21	TransActive Presentation	TransActive
3/28	Drum Circle	Paul Evans
4/4	The Practice of Resurrection	Rev. Sue Ayer
4/11	Living our Covenant	Rev. Susan Maginn
4/18	Listening to the Messages	Rev. Sarah Schurr
4/25	"What's So Funny about Saving the Earth?"	Karl Arruda

(For sermon details, see "2 Months of Sundays", on Pages 6 & 7)

A Letter from Your Religious Education Committee

Hello All,

There are so many reasons to be thankful this season. I say thanks-giving is not limited to one time of year. I am thankful for the sunny days that have been calling the flowers out of their buds. I am thankful for all the time I've been able to spend walking out under the sky, when it is not falling (and yes, sometimes even when it is). I am especially thankful for the ideas, time, and efforts put in by those members of the congregation that helped to bring our RE program a new teacher.

Our search for a teacher began with a desire to offer our growing group of children a more age appropriate experience. Wy'east has been blessed this year with a number of new children, many of them very young. We recognize that for school-age children it can be difficult to be lumped into the same group with pre-schoolers. For that reason, led by Reverend Maginn, our committee embarked on a search for a second teacher to lead our younger group.

Together we sifted through many resumes, and met with a fair number of applicants. I will not say it was easy to choose; I will say that our choice was unanimous.

Ashley McAllister has joined our spiritual family as of February, this year. Many in our congregation had a chance to be introduced to her when we gathered together in the children's space for our service. In a happy accident, we discovered that the Valentines being made by our congregation for the residents of Highland Terrace Nursing Home, were going to seniors whom Ashley was already familiar with, because they are folks her mother cares for in her job there as Activities Director. Ashley had a fun time surprising her mother with all the cards she brought home – "From our family to yours."

Children in Wy'east Religious Education will continue to cross the street together, and light the chalice together -- sharing squeezes, joys, and concerns. We will continue to ask questions that challenge our children to look deeply within --

questions our children have already been answering, "Who can we help?" and "How do we show we care?" But we will now have a space for our older children to mature in their spiritual growth under the guidance of Annie Hailley, as our younger children, with Ashley McAllister will be learning the joys of building a community of peers, and discovering why we as a people, come together each Sunday.

As always, we look forward to seeing you there,

Liana Aburto

Chairperson for Wy'east Religious Education

Reveries *(continued from page 1)*

time to do what we do each spring -- to look at where we are and where we are going. The board's vision for Wy'east next year is one that aspires to have a part-time minister and a (very) part-time administrator. Having an administrator will free up Wy'east members to turn away from office work and turn toward bringing the Wy'east covenant to life, to focus on what we are all about as a community of Love: to be cared for and to be called on to care for others.

Last year's canvass was such a success. Our pledge levels were way up, and it was also lots of fun for everyone. So we've decided to do it again. You'll be invited to the home of a Wy'east member to talk about Wy'east's future. A couple of weeks later, our canvass team will contact each friend and member of the congregation to privately talk about your pledge of support.

In these last months that I am with you, don't be a stranger. Feel free to be in touch with me so that we can personally say good-bye. And know that I believe in you - who you are and who you are becoming.

Love, Susan



Are you interested in reading poems during Rev. Susan's worship services? Please contact her to talk about this possibility.
minister@weeastuu.org

Getting Connected @ Wy'east

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) by contacting Hanna.nelson@gmail.com.

Join the Wy'east Google Group...

How do I subscribe to a group?

You can subscribe to a group through the Google Groups web interface or via email:

To subscribe to a group through the web interface, simply log in to your Google Account and visit the group of your choice. Then click the **“Join this group”** link on the right-hand side of the page under “About this group.”

To subscribe to a group via email, send an email to [Groupname]+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

For example, if you wanted to join a group called wyeast-chat, you'd send an email to **wyeast-chat+subscribe@googlegroups.com**

Note: Wy'east groups are restricted membership, so the group owner must approve your subscription request for you to join.

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

Please let Rev. Susan know if you are interested in collecting announcements and posting our *Wy'east weekly e-news*. This task would take less than an hour each week and is a great contribution to keep us connected between Sundays. Now that the Wy'east Beacon is published every two months, this weekly connection is especially important for the life of our community.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is now published bi-monthly. The deadline for the **May/June** issue submissions will be **Thursday, April 15th**. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to: wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com. If you have any questions, contact Sharai E. or send an email to the above address. Thanks!

We are attempting to save paper and printing costs by printing fewer copies of the newsletter each month. We encourage you to view the newsletter online, at: <http://wyeastuu.org/newsletter.php>.

Wy'east Helping Hands

We are continuing to build our list of folks who can help each other with almost any little jobs.

Do join us: offer your special abilities, and/or ask for what you need. Use your imagination!

In return for services you receive, you may contribute a donation to Wy'east.

To find out more, take a look at the poster on the welcome table, and ask Betsy M., coordinator, for information and sign-up forms, after Sunday services.

Contacting the Minister, DRE & Board of Trustees

Would you like to talk with Rev. Susan Maginn? Contact her at 503.867.7310 or minister@wyeastuu.org

Contact Annie Hailley, our Director of Religious Education (dre@wyeastuu.org), if you have questions about our children's programming at Wy'east.

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 (David Tode O, Karl A. Mark A, Elizabeth S, or Alex R.) on Sundays at church.

Come to UU Celebration of Interdependence Camp!

MISSION: To provide UUs from the Pacific Northwest District an affordable and sustainable retreat, in honor of our 7th Principle: loving and caring for our blue green Earth. This camp is an opportunity to share multi-generational fellowship, while rekindling our spirits and celebrating interdependence. Rich offerings of music, play, spiritual practices and learning abound in an alcohol-free and electronics-free setting.

WHAT: 3rd Annual UU Celebration of Interdependence Family Camp

WHEN: Fourth of July Weekend, Thursday, July 1 to Sunday, July 4

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

WHO: Sponsored by UCCWC/Hillsboro. Come Join Us! Rev. Sue Ayer, chaplain.

HOW: Affordable!

Early Bird Special (April 15-May 17 postmarked):
\$140 adults/\$145 for elder/accessibility issues housing;
\$95, 5-9 yr olds, 4 & under free.

Regular prices (postmarked May 18 on): All
adults/Children 10 and older: \$150. Includes:

THREE nights lodging and NINE meals, along with all
camp amenities: pool, slip-n-slide, athletic courts, and
28 acres on a forested river under magical starry nights.

Registration: For information and registration form:
www.uccwc.org/familycamp or contact Sara Cloe,
DRE, at UCCWC, 503-648-1720.

Campership/General Fund: If you would like to donate
to the campership fund for those who could not
otherwise attend, even if you can't get to camp yourself,
please do so through the registration form. This is a tax-
deductable donation. Thank you!

Definitions: "Family"--Any UU who wants to celebrate
with other UUs of all ages.

From Last Year's Traditions Survey, we learned that
you want: ~ Fourth of July Weekend -- A UU
alternative holiday ~ Fun and worshipful Earth themes,
with lots of music ~ Intergenerational Community ~
Electronics-free, Alcohol-free, so here it is!

Wy'east Special Collections

On the third Sunday in **March**, we will be raising
money for two organizations -- the **Reed UU
Group**, and the **Community of Welcoming
Congregations**.

Wy'east donates money yearly to the Reed UU
students, who meet weekly and do activities
together. Our own Rev. Sarah Schurr is the
volunteer campus minister with those students.

Wy'east is also a member of the Community of
Welcoming Congregations. This LGBTQ
organization has almost a hundred Oregon
member congregations, including a dozen UU.

On the third Sunday in **April**, our special collection
will be for the **Unitarian Universalist Service
Committee**. The UUSC promotes human rights
and social justice worldwide. The origins of this
group go back to World War II, and the rescuing of
people in Europe fleeing Nazi Germany. The flaming
chalice was the group's symbol.



Worship Odds & Ends

On Sundays, it is 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 discreetly 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 and April.

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 or talk to
Tim M, Mark A, Brooke C. or Elizabeth S.

Before & After Worship Programming in March & April

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

MARCH 7

- **Potluck Lunch** - bring a dish to share right after the service.

MARCH 14

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am
- **Special Congregational Meeting**, regarding our Ministerial Search, after a brief social time following the service.

MARCH 21

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am

MARCH 28

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



APRIL 4

- **Potluck Lunch** - bring a dish to share right after the service.

APRIL 11

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am

APRIL 18

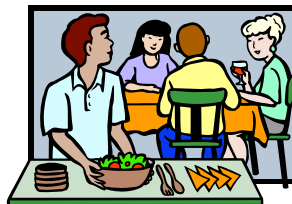
- **Social Hour** 11:30 am

APRIL 25

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

UU Adventures in Eating

SUNDAY POTLUCKS – Our potlucks will be held on **March 7th** and **April 4th** at 11:30 am. Bring a 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 then 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.

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.

*We have a **potential upcoming volunteer opportunity** to help North by Northeast Community Health Center build a food garden to provide nutritional food for their patients. Wy'east donated to North by Northeast Clinic for a special collection last fall. The clinic offers health screenings and medical services at no cost, primarily to low-income individuals in the inner N/NE neighborhoods who do not have insurance.*

Carol Baumann has been in touch with Suzy Jeffries, the clinic manager who spoke to us last fall, and Suzy tells us they're not sure exactly when they will start building the garden, but they will need help building things such as garden beds, a fence, compost areas and shed. If you'd like to volunteer with a group from Wy'east at some point, please talk to Carol or e-mail her at cabaumann@earthlink.net. Eventually, there will be continuing opportunities to volunteer in the finished garden.

2 MONTHS OF SUNDAYS

March

March 7 ON DROPPING

Letting go. Picking things up. Bouncing. Dropping the ball. The **UU Group of Reed College** will explore the topic of “dropping” and (almost) everything that goes along with it in their annual service. The members of Reed’s UU group all have various experiences with Unitarian Universalism, and they come together every Monday in spiritual community. This service explores inspiration and ritual on dropping.

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.

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

March 14 RADICAL HOMEMAKING

Thanks to the women’s rights movement, the prescribed ‘place’ of men and women has been tossed out. But have we tossed the homemaker out with the bathwater? I wonder if we are placing too much emphasis on individual professional identity at the expense of our home, family and local community. Let’s talk about how we can all slow down and focus on what really matters. **Rev. Susan Maginn** leads 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.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Special Congregational Meeting, regarding our Ministerial Search: 12:30 pm.

March 21 TRANSACTIVE PRESENTATION

TransActive will be the group presenting at our service on March 21st. “TransActive Education & Advocacy provides the necessary support to improve the quality of life of transgender and gender non-conforming children, youth and their families through education, services, advocacy and research. We believe every child has the right to express their gender identity as they experience it.” Our own **Janelle S.** is on the board of this organization.

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.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

March 28 DRUM CIRCLE

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 with the pulse of our circle. Please join us as **Paul Evans**, musician, artist and friend of Wy’east, takes us deeper, in our second participatory drum circle. Bring your drums! We will have some available, but the service will involve everyone, with or without one.

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.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

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

April

April 4 THE PRACTICE OF RESURRECTION

“Practice resurrection” is the closing line of Wendell Berry’s poem “Manifesto.” The ancient Easter message asks us to balance the tragedies of life with our human capacity for hope, and even for joy in the morning. How will you follow the poet’s advice? The **Rev. Sue Ayer** is the Affiliated Community Minister at our Hillsboro congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County. She serves the greater Portland area as preacher, teacher, mentor and adviser to new ministers, and she conducts ceremonies and rites of passage in many settings. She formerly served as Parish Minister at Eastrose UU Fellowship in Gresham.

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.

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

April 11 LIVING OUR COVENANT

“We covenant with each other as a community of Love. We will become our deepest and truest selves together. We will be cared for, and we will be called on to care for others. We will stumble, but will restore one another, and begin again in Love.”

We’ll meditate on the words of our new covenant and ask: How are we living these words as a congregation and as individuals? This is a Chalice Circle Sunday and will be facilitated 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.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

April 18 LISTENING TO THE MESSAGES

Wisdom is all around us, if we are able to find it. Come hear what just might help you hear the messages you might be missing. **Rev. Sarah Schurr**, a founding member of Wy’east, will lead this 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.

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.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

April 25 “WHAT’S SO FUNNY ABOUT SAVING THE EARTH?”

How can people of faith respond to climate change? It’s time to seek inspiration from wherever possible. According to Albert Schweitzer, “At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another.” This Earth Day, my spark is rekindled by humor. Anyone smart enough to find something humorous about the environment deserves our admiration and respect. Contemplate these headlines from recent issues of *The Onion*, a leading source of news humor: “China Celebrates its Status as World’s Number One Air Polluter” “*How Bad for the Environment Can Throwing Away One Plastic Bottle Be?*” “30 Million People Wonder” We will consider how humor can help us absorb the challenges of protecting the Earth. Service presented by **Karl Arruda**, Wy’east Board member.

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.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

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



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

Return Service Requested