



# 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*]

May 2009

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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

A couple of newcomers recently told me that they want to become Unitarian Universalists and members of Wy'east. As we spoke about what that process entails, one of them said that he would like to hear my vision for Wy'east's future. A reasonable request, to be sure. However, in that moment I realized that

*what is sacred about congregational life is not the vision of the minister passed on to the people, but rather the vision that comes from the people.*

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Sunday Sermons

- May 3      **PAUL: JEWISH MYSTIC AND SOCIAL REVOLUTIONARY,**  
Rev. Susan Maginn
- May 10     **RE-PRESENTING GOD,** Marcia Stanard
- May 17     **THE CHILD'S GROWING SPIRIT,** Rev. Susan Maginn
- May 24     **COMING OF AGE,** Jon Biemer
- May 31     **THE LABYRINTH IN MYTHOLOGY AND MODERN**  
**SPIRITUALITY: A CLUE FOR LIVING WELL,** Karl Arruda

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

## From the DRE



Do you juggle, make jewelry, fashion the perfect paper airplane or know any fancy parlor tricks?

Do you like to spend time with great kids? If any of these descriptions ring true, you may want to consider volunteering a Sunday or two this summer. Currently, the LRE Committee is gearing up for the children's summer program, affectionately known as "Wy'camp."

Wy'camp is a casual gathering of kids of all ages (except for infants and toddlers who stay in the nursery with a caregiver) that replaces more formal RE classes. Adults, older youth and families take turns leading Wy'camp activities while services are going on. You can volunteer your Sunday by sharing an activity you enjoy with Wy'camp's young people – anything from playing board games, crafting art projects, ice cream making, or creating funny skits together, to name a few.

If you don't know what you want to do, but know that you'd like to get involved, I am happy to create a fun, simple activity for you. Look for the sign-up sheet during social hours and potlucks. Wy'camp will run from June 21 through the end of summer, when the regular RE program will once again resume. Please keep in mind this program is run entirely by volunteers in the summer, and we are relying on your support to keep our summer program successful!

Until then, we will keep on learning together in RE. The youngest class (3-5 year old) is working on a unit that teaches us about intangible gifts right now: gifts of kindness, caring, love, friendship, etc. Usually the children are read a story identifying the gift followed by a game or art project that represents what they are learning.

In the 6-8 year old class, we are still navigating our way with our moral compass, in Moral Tales. Each child has a notebook that they keep at home, noting their week's gems of goodness. It could be cleaning their room without being asked, helping a classmate who was having a bad day or sharing a toy with somebody. It could also be an example of somebody else's gem of goodness that they shared with you. Each time we meet, we share the events and add a "gem of goodness" to our jar. When the jar is full, we will have a party!

The middle-school group is finishing up the U.U.-based curriculum "We Believe," and will be doing more with world religions and U.U. history when we return from our summer retreat. Our youth group meets with Tode and Elizabeth after-service.

On June 14th, our last day of meeting as an RE group, we will have an ice cream social where all kids from our different groups will join together to make our own ice cream. It will give us a chance to end our more formal classes and welcome summer together. I hope

you all can be there! As always, it is an honor and a joy to work with your children.

In faith,

—Annie

## More Tidbits for New Members and Others

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

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

If you have questions for the Wy'camp Board of Trustees, you can send an email to [weeast-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:weeast-board@googlegroups.com) or talk to any Board member (Karl A., Mark A., Jill D., Barbara S. or Elizabeth S.) on Sundays at church. ♦

## Annual Meeting scheduled for May 31

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Wy'camp membership will be on Sunday, May 31 at noon. The agenda will include election of officers for the coming year, approval of the budget for the coming year, and a bylaws revision allowing for a month of transition between the old and new boards. Childcare will be provided. On May 17 at noon there will be an informational meeting to discuss these agenda items and for the board to answer questions from the congregation. No votes will be taken at the informational meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend and speak at both meetings, but only people who have been members for 30 days or longer are eligible to vote at the annual meeting. ♦

## Before & After Worship Programming in May

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

MAY 3

- **Choir Rehearsal** 9:30 am
- **New Member signing of the membership book** will be after the worship service on **May 3rd**. There will be New Member Ceremony during a worship service sometime in May...stay tuned.
- **Potluck Lunch** - bring a dish to share, help set up tables and clean dishes. *During the potluck:*
- **Q&A on Wy'east & UU** - Rev. Maginn will host a question & answer discussion table at the Potluck after the service today for anyone who'd like to learn more about Wy'east or Unitarian-Universalism.
- **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.

MAY 10

- **Choir Rehearsal** 9:30 am
- **Social Hour** 11:30 am

MAY 17

- **Choir Rehearsal** 9:30 am
- **Social Hour** 11:30 am
- **Sermon discussion** with Susan Maginn 11:30 am
- **Pre-Annual Meeting information session** Noon

MAY 24

- **RE Meeting** 9:00 a.m.
- **Social Hour** 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** 11:40 am
- **Parent Support Group:** Navigating Mass Media with Children. Childcare provided, bring a snack for your child. 11:45 am

MAY 31

- **Social Time** 11:30 am
- **Annual meeting** Noon

Last year we did a worship service called *Passages* to acknowledge the significant events in Wy'east members' and friends' lives. If you experienced a birth, death, marriage, union, anniversary or other life-changing event, please contact Rev. Susan Maginn. Currently our Passages service is scheduled for June 7th.



From the Board

Connecting to Faith

**“Only connect! That was the whole of her sermon. Only connect the prose and the passion, and both will be exalted, and human love will be seen at its height. Live in fragments no longer.”**

--- E.M. Forster

I have been thinking about faith and how different parts of my life connect in unexpected ways. What do I have faith in?

One thing I have faith in is public education. I have faith in its importance to educating citizens in a democracy. I have faith in the ability of a good teacher to open a child's mind. I have faith in the ability of children to learn.

I have faith in democracy – as Winston Churchill said, the worst possible system of government ever created, except for every other system of government. Voting is always an act of faith.

I have faith in nature. Admiring tulips, cherry blossoms, and azaleas, listening to songbirds, even admiring the lowly slugs in our backyard, I am always startled by the cycles of life.

I have faith in Wy'east. It is a great honor and responsibility to offer a friendly place for religious exploration, for tolerating, even celebrating our different ideas. Unitarian Universalism has been described as a way to explore religious questions without requiring any particular answer. When so many people think they have THE answer, I believe it is important that Wy'east and UU'ism continue to proclaim that no one has all the answers but we all still deserve love and compassion. I think it is important and fun to have a community where we can explore questions and different ways of being spiritual and connecting to the world.

Wy'east also opens doors for our children's futures, to offer them a home for spiritual exploration and growth.

Wy'east is where I try to stitch together the fragments of my life. How do you connect the dots?

—Karl A.

## UU Legislative Lobbying Coming to Oregon

California and Washington both have UU lobbying organizations in their state capitals. Now UUs in Oregon are jumping on the bandwagon. It will give UUs across the state a common voice in Salem, and help to organize lobby days on social justice issues. We will be making our liberal religious voice heard in the corridors of power.

Thirty or so UUs met at the Salem UU church on April 18 for a day of discussion and organization. We decided to move forward with putting together what is tentatively called Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice. Its purpose will be to lobby the state legislature on social justice and equity issues. Two broad themes will be marriage equality and sustainability and global warming. It is likely that one other issue will be selected for attention.

The next year or so will be spent on getting organized, on the recommendation of both the Washington, DC and the Washington State UU lobbying organizations -- structure, bylaws, that sort of thing. But the broad outlines are already clear. The effort will be centered in Salem, with the Salem UU congregation serving as our home base and "fiscal sponsor." (This saves us having to jump through the hoops of getting our own 501(c) certification.) Both congregational and individual memberships will be available. A steering committee has been formed.

For more information contact Barbara S.

Quotes from the meeting: "The important issues are moral and religious, not just political and financial." And, "The budget is a moral document."

## Newsletter News

Submissions for the June newsletter are due by **7 p.m. on Friday, May 22nd**. 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).

—*Sharai E.*

## When Five Kids Get Killed

I knew thirteen kids who were murdered. Street violence mostly. Being a social worker with runaways for almost twenty-five years, it came to be part of the job - although I didn't have a clue getting into this deal.

You grow a thick skin. Get cynical. Something, anything, to distance yourself from the pain. Although sometimes you couldn't. I woke up one night, hands around my own throat, sweating, trying to protect my neck from the same knife that had sliced this eighteen year old girl downtown.

A guy kills his five children. I feel ice in my veins. All warmth drains away, hope, heart. I want Michelle Obama to come in and fix it. Go to the funeral for those five bystanders. Cauterize the wound. Say this has to stop. Now. Here.

Otherwise, all we've done is move Baghdad into the neighborhood. Everyone is fair game. There is no higher authority, no moral bottom line - the bullet's in the Final Four.

What will it take? How many deaths? It's not the First Lady's job any more than it's our own. Family matters. Life is worth. Irresponsibility grows in a vacuum. Disconnection is a disease.

—*Mark A.*

## 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 May, 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. or Elizabeth S.

## UU Adventures in Eating



**Potluck** – Join us for our **First Sunday Brunch** on May 3rd 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, then 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.

## More Teal Hymnals on their way

For the past couple of years the choir has been singing from the new teal hymnal, *Singing the Journey*. But we have not had enough of the hymnals to use for congregational singing at Sunday services. Now twelve more copies of *Singing the Journey* are on their way to Wy'east. Thanks are due to the people who contributed to our move fund, who agreed to put the unused funds towards buying hymnals, and to the people who worked so hard to keep our move expenses under budget. We can look forward to singing "Blue Boat Home" and "Standing on the Side of Love", among other wonderful new songs.

## 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.

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

**MISSION:** To provide UUs 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.

**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, 28 acres on the river under starry nights.

**Registration:** Now Open.

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

**OR,** talk to members of your church community who attended last year:

Linda Jo R. and Paul H.

**Definitions:** "Family"--Any UU who wants to celebrate with others from the Northwest. What makes this camp different? The vision of intergenerational, family-style programs that don't segregate out age groups for many activities. And, the programs pack an earth-based punch! From Sunship Earth to The Great Universe Story, all framed in worshipful gatherings of celebrating life outdoors, i.e.: FUN!!

**PS.** If you want to contribute to a campership fund for those who couldn't otherwise attend, whether you come to camp or not, please do so thru registration form—Thanks!! Encourage your church to set up a campership fund for your members.

## Reveries

(continued from page 1)

We all have dreams and visions for how spiritual development can happen in our homes, in our individual lives, at Wy'east and in the larger community. Our congregational togetherness is best when we are sharing these possibilities, no matter how audacious they may be. One dream might be owning our own building someday - a building that is devoted to spiritual health for Wy'east as well as for the larger community. Another dream might be Wy'east becoming a leadership congregation in feeding the hungry of Portland. Another might be having a vibrant young adult program. Another might be becoming known for the depth and beauty of our worship services.

When our greatest dream becomes simply paying our monthly bills, then we have lost our sense of mission, our reason for being, the heart of our existence. We have, in short, lost our connection to the sacred. Paying our bills is important, and it is easy to focus exclusively on such concerns in these times. However, the spirit of life will only move through us and awaken us - again and again - if our community is united by possibilities.

So, as we enter into our budget drive for our new church year - which starts in July - let us remember that our budget is more than we might imagine. It is actually a sacred text, revealing what is most dear to us as a community, what are our dreams, and how we are getting there.

Please be included in this process. If you haven't heard from someone on our amazing budget drive team, and would like to be included in our planning for the fall, please contact Debra Tomsen at [tomsend@ohsu.edu](mailto:tomsend@ohsu.edu) or 503-232-5606.

—Susan

## Rev. Maginn has a blog!

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

## 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.

## 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 May. 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!**

# A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

## May 3 PAUL: JEWISH MYSTIC AND SOCIAL REVOLUTIONARY

The apostle Paul often gets a bad rap in liberal religious circles. He is understandably dismissed as homophobic and misogynist. However, when you look closely you might just find a powerful prophetic voice and even a Unitarian Universalist role model. 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.

Q&A on Wy'cast & UU, Poetry Circle, New Member signing of the membership book

## May 10 RE-PRESENTING GOD

Hospital chaplaincy involves supporting people in need to access their own spiritual resources. How do we access the Holy in our lives? How do we support each other in times of need? **Marcia Stanard** is a Candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. She was honored to serve as Wy'cast's DRE and ministerial student from 2006-2008.

**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.

## May 17 THE CHILD'S GROWING SPIRIT

What do children need from a congregation to develop spiritually? How can parents be committed to children's growth without leaving their own spirit at the curb? And how is it that no matter how much we prepare and research, children always seem to teach us more than we teach them? 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. **Sermon Discussion:** 11:45 a.m.

**Pre-Annual Meeting information session:** 12 p.m.

## May 24 COMING OF AGE

Coming of age rites of passage have been practiced by indigenous and religious peoples around the world. Why? Our society, including Unitarian Universalists, settles for driver's licenses, sports, military service, and college. How can the community, as well as our young people, be better served? Wy'cast member **Jon Biemer** will share insights from his experience as a child, as a parent, and as a student of elders.

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

**Parent Support Group:** *Navigating Mass Media with Children* 11:45 a.m.

## May 31 THE LABYRINTH IN MYTHOLOGY AND MODERN SPIRITUALITY: A CLUE FOR LIVING WELL

From the Greek Myth of the Minotaur, to the Labyrinth of Chartres Cathedral in France to psychoanalyst Carl Jung, labyrinths and mazes have fascinated and inspired people of all backgrounds. **Karl Arruda**, Wy'cast member, will explore the stories and messages of labyrinths and why they can offer valuable "clues" for navigating the life's twists and turns.

**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.

**Annual Meeting:** 12 p.m.

*If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier  
in the spring and stay that way later in the fall.*

*~Nadine Stair*



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

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