



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*]

November 2008

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Reveries ♦♦♦

By Rev. Susan Maginn

“What are you waiting for?”

This is the question that Christine Walsh, our fabulous Director of Religious Education, asked herself. She was living in Nashville and wanted to move to Portland with her family. It was a great idea, but after years of family conversations and brainstorming there was still not a firm moving date. She put a sign on her refrigerator that said, “What Are You Waiting For?”

Christine and her family arrived in Portland a year ago.

Over the past year, Wy'east has been looking for a new building to rent. One of the many priorities for this new space has been to worship in the morning, which has never been possible in Wy'east's eleven year history. Our hope is that by moving to a morning worship time, we will be more welcoming to all who seek a warm and dynamic spiritual community.

Starting sometime in December (perhaps as early as December 1st), our doors will be open wide in the Hollywood neighborhood. We will begin worshipping at the Hollywood Senior Center and will also use the Wee Works pre-school across the street for religious education. There are many details to be worked out, and many hands needed on deck, but what is clear is that Wy'east overwhelmingly voted in support of a move that will undoubtedly transform us.

I am inspired by our congregation's vision and courage, and I pray that my leadership will be a gift to Wy'east in the time to come.

--Susan



Worship Committee

Future Worship Service Ideas?

Do you have an idea for a worship service you'd like to see at Wy'east? The Worship Committee would like to hear from you!

The Worship Committee has been newly revitalized this year with more members and lots of new ideas. We work with Rev. Susan Maginn and with our outside speakers to help plan and coordinate weekly services and to develop ideas for future services that we hope you'll find inspiring, enlightening, thought-provoking, and spiritually invigorating.

We want to explore the many ways that our services can awaken and renew a sense of spirit within us — new ways of accessing the sacred in our lives, both individually and as a community.

We're excited about plans for the coming church year, including interactive and participatory elements such as Taize prayer and meditation; a drum circle; reader's theater; even a short film on environmental justice. We've also initiated discussion groups after services and hope to do more of these throughout the year.

There are still a number of open dates with yet-to-be-planned services, so if you'd like to have some input into this vital part of our experience at Wy'east, talk to committee members Elizabeth S., Mabel P., Heather W., Tim M. or Rev. Maginn to get your ideas into the mix! New committee members are also welcome. To contact us, e-mail wyeast-worship@googlegroups.com.

What Are You Thankful For?

Rev. Susan Maginn is asking everyone in the congregation—adults and children—to respond to this question and give your response to Susan before Sunday 11/16. This collection of responses will help to shape the Bread Service on 11/23. You may send your answer via email (minister@wyeastuu.org) or you can put it in her mailbox at church. ♦

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Wy'east will be holding a series of monthly sharing or circle suppers. It's so simple, yet rewarding. These dinners are held in the homes of Wy'east members and friends. Hosts will provide beverages and table service for the meal and one dish. Guests will be asked to bring a dish to share.

This gives us a chance to get to know each other outside of the structure of the worship services on Sunday. It gives us a chance to have leisurely conversations over shared meals.

Interested in being a host or a guest? Please contact Debra T. or see her at church.

An Open Letter of Gratitude

In the few short months that I've been coming to Wy'east I have been so deeply touched by the generosity of time and spirit in this community that I wanted to say Thank You in this letter.

I first walked through the Wy'east door back in June, shortly after learning that I would have to undergo major heart surgery within a few months. I was terrified — and I knew I needed something more in my life if I was going to get through this experience.

I didn't know for sure what I was looking for back then, but I certainly found it — and a whole lot more. You have welcomed and supported and encouraged me in too many ways to count. And while the prospect of the surgery is indeed what pushed me through the door on that first day, becoming part of the community I found inside — all the opportunities you've given me to become so involved and so connected with so many wonderful people, and so quickly — has brought more into my life and awakened more in me than I could ever have imagined.

I realize more and more each day what a uniquely special group of people this community is, in so many, many ways, and I am so grateful for the privilege of becoming a part of it.

-Tim M.



From the DRE

A Vote for Peace

I would like to share a familiar quote spoken thousands of years ago that is relevant and imperative to our world today.

If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbors.

If there is to be peace between neighbors, there must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart.

-- Lao Tzu (570-490 B.C.)

As our congregation moves to make difficult choices about our future, I would like to remind us of our obligation to create a peaceful world for the next generation. We come together to create a peaceful community at Wy'east as part of our commitment to the future of our children. Even though this is not easy, we intuitively know the work must be done. The work we do here ripples out into the larger world to promote peace for those living far from us. Each baby, each child, each tree, each insect does critically hold the web of our world together. When one suffers, all are affected.

Practically speaking, forming a family covenant can be a way to remind us of keeping peaceful communication and respect in the forefront of our lives. The covenant can be formed by a family of any size and can be posted on the fridge to be amended as needed. Keep the covenant short and get consensus on all points. The covenant is a solemn promise we make to each other and is used to guide our actions, not to pass blame when we fall short. Here are some ideas.

We, the Peaceful family, affirm to practice the following: to listen without interrupting each other,

to assume good intentions from each other, to wait until our anger has passed before speaking, and to involve all members in decisions that affect them.

A family with young children might affirm to use kind words, to listen carefully, and to treat each other's worries/difficulties with respect.

While we are deciding how to vote on governmental and church issues, let us reflect how our vote can promote peace for our children. And let our words and our actions be a daily vote for peace.

In faith,

Christine W.

Director of Religious Education

LRE News

We have a new employee, Anne S., who works in the nursery with infants during the service as well as with our younger children during church meetings. Anne is a biology / pre-med student and brings a warm smile and easy way with children. She has taught science for Mad Science of Portland. Our children are quite comfortable with her already, and if you have a minute, pop into the nursery to say "hello." We are pleased to have Anne involved in our program.

The 3-5 year olds are studying their relationship with nature and the seasons while they build relationships with each other and their teachers based on trust and respect. Their curious minds and sparkling personalities are a blessing to our church.

The 6-8 year olds have energy to spare as they explore all kinds of homes: animal homes, spiritual homes, and family homes. This group is thoughtful and serious, but also really playful.

The 9-12 year old group has been studying our UU Principles through stories and biographies of amazing historical persons. This class is small, but smart. They are asked to think about issues of justice and decision-making in a serious way.

Our youth have been gearing up to take photos of our individual families here at Wy'east. Be on the lookout for a release form that invites families to participate in the project. The youths' openness to life and innocence is both inspiring and touching.

See Christine W. or Laura R. if you have any questions or feedback about our Lifespan Religious Education Program.

Wy'east Social Action

A morning in the garden at the Oregon Food Bank

Allanque picked jalapeño peppers from the garden and an egg from the chicken coop; Barbara and Nancy harvested squash and dug up garden beds; Mark and Tode cleaned and packed produce. They were among a group of thirteen members and friends from Wy'east who made up part of what the garden supervisor called the most productive corps of volunteers she's had!

At its Learning Garden, the Oregon Food Bank teaches people how to grow their own produce, and the food is distributed to hunger-relief agencies.

On a cheery, sunny morning in October, Wy'east volunteers harvested, gardened, planted, composted and learned things like: hay is layered with greens to make compost, and chickens like to eat and play with piles of tomatoes in their coop.

We got a look at where some food comes from, spent a beautiful morning in the sun, deepened our friendships and gathered organic produce for distribution to those in need. I think we all left with smiles on our faces. We hope to go back in the spring.

In the meantime, please join in on upcoming volunteer opportunities with your friends at Wy'east. On Sat., Nov. 15, we will be cooking and serving dinner at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter. Hope you can take part!

-Elizabeth S.

Please join us for our next Wy'east social action project: preparing and serving the evening meal at the **Goose Hollow Family Shelter on Saturday, November, 15th.** We picked this shelter to work with specifically because it is family friendly, as we wanted some place where Wy'east kids and families could participate safely and learn something useful from the experience. Please contact Elizabeth S., Mark A., or Tode O. for details. And let us know quickly if you can participate; we need to start getting organized for this event. You can connect with me at marklawrencealter@gmail.com.

-Mark A.

Volunteers Needed

In the United States, there are 7.3 million children with a parent in jail or prison. As a result, they face a staggering 70% chance of following the same path. Through Big Brothers Big Sisters, you can do something to change these odds.

Big Brothers Big Sisters' Amachi mentoring program was developed to provide children of incarcerated parents a different path - by establishing the consistent presence of loving, caring people of faith.

Amachi, a unique partnership between Big Brothers Big Sisters and faith-based organizations, provides mentoring to children of incarcerated parents. Studies show that children matched with a mentor are 46 percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs and 52 percent less likely to skip school than children not matched with a mentor.

As an Amachi Big Brother or Sister, you will be matched with a child based on your common interests. Once the match is made, you meet with your "Little" once a week to do activities you both enjoy - like watching movies, playing in the park, or just hanging out. Mentors do not require special skills, only the desire to be a friend.

For more information, please call 503.249.4859 or visit www.bbbsnorthwest.org. ♦

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'east or Unitarian Universalism, if you have any questions or concerns, need some support, etc. She does not have full-time office space 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. ♦

Worship Odds & Ends

There is often room in side pews (up front) during the worship service. If you can **sit up front**, please do. 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 the month. In November that is Rich H. ♦

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.

Register your **children** in the **religious education** program. Talk to Christine Walsh at church to get this process rolling.

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

Wy'east Chalice Circles

Wy'east is lucky enough to have a Chalice Circle program. These Chalice Circles are small groups of members/friends of Wy'east that meet monthly to become a community within a community. These circles generally go through a facilitated discussion each session. These discussions bring an intimacy between the group members. They supplement the relationships that start at worship services and social hours/potlucks.

Examples of typical topics would be: Wildness, Silence/Emptiness, Generosity, Worry, Friendship, Love. These heady topics are a pathway to getting to know members of our community.

Chalice circles are warm, encouraging, and easy to participate in. It just takes a commitment to the specified length of the group. There is no preparation, you just show up with your heart and mind.

Each Chalice Circle also does a project that benefits others. This can be as simple as a group hosting of the social hour after church or as complicated as making 100 burritos to distribute to a homeless shelter.

Please consider joining or starting a Chalice Circle...

- The **Men's Chalice Group** will meet each month at the home of Raul M. Newcomers very welcome! Contact Raul for more info.
- The **Saturday Chalice Circle** is open to men and women, and will be the first Saturday of the month from 1-3 pm, at Debra T.'s home. Contact Debra for more info. ♦

Newsletter News

Submissions for the December newsletter are due by **7 p.m. on Friday, November. 21st**.

Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to: weyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com. That's a **new email address**. ♦

-Sharai E.

UU Adventures in Eating



Join us for our **First Sunday Supper** on November 2nd after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share. November 9th is **Second Sunday Soup**. Bring a vegetable to church and drop it off in the basket by the entrance. Mark A. and Gina O. will use it to make a tasty vegetarian soup for all to enjoy after church. Bread and desserts are always welcome too.

Restaurant Adventure - After our service on one Sunday of each month, those who are interested gather for dinner 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!

Goodbye and Hello

We will have ceremonies and celebrations to say goodbye to Waverly UCC and boldly begin the next chapter of Wy'east's life. Since our next newsletter will probably come out once we are already in our new space, please stay tuned to the website and the Wy'east email lists to see how things are moving and shaking around here.

Book Review

In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby

Mark Morrison-Reed was caught in a tortuous shift in America. Born on the South Side of Chicago during the 1949 in a twilight zone between the races, he was raised on the cusp of what was to come. A black hippie, he tried to reconcile the "make love not war" ethos of the white counter-culture with the demands of awakening black power consciousness. Morrison-Reed, himself of mixed-race ancestry, went on to marry an Anglo-Canadian and raise two multiracial children. He served as minister to predominantly white Unitarian Universalist congregations. *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby* gives voice to the unspoken story of those Afro-Americans who were among the first to bring racial diversity to their neighborhood, school, church or workplace, to the increasing number of partners in interracial relationships and those blessed with and yet struggling to raise multiracial children in a polarized world.

Praise for In Between

"This exquisitely written and psychologically penetrating book will teach you, bother you and bring you to tears. Mark Morrison-Reed has given us the gift of his heart in order to illumine the complexities of race that haunt us all and, in the process, illuminated how fear and brokenness may be redeemed by the healing, if painful, power of authenticity."

— William F. Schulz, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 1985-93

"Morrison-Reed's account is nothing less than a spiritual clearing in the forest of race and ethnicity. Every reader will rejoice that he has entrusted it to these pages."

— Lee Barker, President, Meadville Lombard Theological School

Raised in the Unitarian Universalist faith, Mark Morrison-Reed served for 26 years in an interracial co-ministry with his wife in Rochester, New York and in Toronto. He is the author of Black Pioneers in a White Denomination and Been in the Storm So Long. (Review from <http://www.uua.org>)

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

November 2 THE GREAT LEAP OF FAITH

We, as a country and as a congregation, are at a crossroads. It has been said that crisis points come when we are in the transition from one stage of spiritual development to another. If this is so, let us consider how we are growing spiritually, how we are letting go, and where we are being called. Rev. Susan Maginn will lead this service

Youth Group (High School Age): 4:00 p.m.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

First Sunday Supper: 6:00 p.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

November 9 MEANING AND EXPERIENCE IN MUSIC

Musicians are found among all peoples of the earth. In some cultures there is a direct relationship between music-making and worship. In others, music is the essence of a cultural identity. We are all moved by music's power and beauty. Through performance and sharing the reflections of other musicians, Katie and Tom Ten Eyck will lead an exploration of the meaning and experience of music. Katie Ten Eyck is an actress and vocalist and was Director of Religious Education at Eastrose Fellowship for four years. Tom Ten Eyck is an educator and musician. Both are active members of Eastrose Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Gresham.

Youth Group (High School Age): 4:00 p.m.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Second Sunday Soup Supper: Bring a vegetable to church for the meal. Bread or desserts are appreciated too.

November 16 DOES IT MATTER IF WE PRAY?

Service led by Rev. Susan Maginn

Youth Group (High School Age): 4:00 p.m. **Choir rehearsal:** 4 p.m.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

November 23 BREAD SUNDAY

Bread Sunday is a long-standing UU tradition that celebrates Thanksgiving. People (like you) bring bread to the service and share it with the congregation. Often the bread reflects a person's ethnic background or has an association with holidays and extended family. Some folks dress up in clothes or costumes that reflect the bread's origin. It is a great service to bring a friend to because it is so unusual and at the same time it will capture some of the essence that is Wy'east. In addition to sharing the bread and a bit of ourselves, we speak aloud, we sing, we pray, we are blessed. Rev. Susan Maginn will lead this service. (If you'd like to present bread for the service, please call Susan at 503.867.7310 or minister@wyeastuu.org by November 16.)

Youth Group (High School Age): 4:00 p.m. **Choir rehearsal:** 4 p.m.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Restaurant Adventure: 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced during social hour.

November 30 FEEDING THE SPIRIT

Through next fall, Wy'east's social justice work will focus on alleviating hunger. Last month, we gardened and harvested produce at the Oregon Food Bank. This month, we will cook dinner for homeless families at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter. Let us bend our backs, extend our spoons, serve and uplift through volunteerism and generosity every day. Service led by founding members Mark Alter and Tode Oshin.

Youth Group (High School Age): 4:00 p.m.

Choir rehearsal: 4 p.m.

Service: 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

OofS=order of service

November 2008 — Calendar of Events

* Unless noted by an asterisk, all events are at the church.

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
2 4pm Youth Group (High School) 5pm Service & K-8th Grade RE 6pm Potluck	3	4	5 10am OofS Deadline 7:15pm Board meeting	6	7	8
9 4pm Youth Group (High School) 4pm Choir rehearsal 5pm Service & K-8th Grade RE 6pm Soup Supper	10	11	12 10am OofS Deadline	13	14	15 Social Action Project (Time TBD)
16 4pm Youth Group (High School) 4pm Choir rehearsal, RE Committee 5pm Service & K-8th Grade RE 6pm Social Hour	17	18	19 10am OofS Deadline 7:15pm Board meeting	20	21 7-9pm Committee on Ministry 7pm Newsletter Deadline	22
23 4pm Youth Group (High School) 4pm Choir rehearsal 5pm Service & K-8th Grade RE 6pm Social Hour 7pm Restaurant Adventure	24	25	26 10am OofS Deadline	27	28	29
30 4pm Youth Group (High School) 5pm Service & K-8th Grade RE 6pm Social Hour						

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Return Service Requested