



# THE WY'EAST BEACON

Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation

October 2007

We are a Welcoming Congregation to persons of every race, color, gender, affectional or sexual orientation, age, national or ethnic origin, or economic background.

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## Reveries ♦ ♦ ♦ By Rev. Susan Maginn

### *What's Inside?*

In UU Faith. I remember the first time I saw this phrase. It was when someone signed a note to me – “In UU faith, John.” I kept staring at the phrase thinking, “What does ‘faith’ mean in Unitarian Universalist circles?”

### *Classes and Small Group Ministry ... Page 4...*

Faith is an attitude of loving and trusting something that is beyond our ability to prove or control. For example, Unitarian Universalists cannot confirm the “inherent worth and dignity of every person,” but, if we have faith in this principle, then our lives change. We can no longer simply demonize. We see possibilities in the most desperate of circumstances.

### *Camp Adams Weekend ...Page 4...*

For people who believe in God, you can ask, “Why am I here? What does God want from me in this place?” At the foundation of such questions, there is faith that God is calling us to respond to a wounded world. It is up to us to somehow faithfully discern what such a response might be.

### *Book Reviews ...Page 6...*

Another take on faith is that we can trust that all is as it should be. This belief is pretty easy to hold onto if we are rich, healthy and relatively happy. But how can we have faith that ‘all is as it should be’ when we are faced with illness, unemployment, addiction, war? At such times, I wish we could all have faith in ourselves as learners and an open heart for the future, faith that there is peace for us to experience, faith that there is love for us to receive, and faith that we have gifts to contribute to the world.

### *Sunday Services ...Page 7...*

In UU faith,

*Susan*

## A Source of Light or Inspiration

You've probably noticed that the Wy'east newsletter has a new name (and look). We're excited about this change since the new name is a better reflection of our connection to all Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations, our place in the wider community, and Wy'east's culture. Our association of congregations (UUA) is located on Beacon Street in Boston and our denomination's publishing company is Beacon Press, so the term 'beacon' has historical significance for UUs. Webster's Dictionary defines beacon as: “a source of light or inspiration, and a lighthouse or other signal for guidance.” In a fast-paced, hurting world, UUism and Wy'east are beacons of hope for meaning, understanding, peace and justice. Wy'east, like other UU congregations, is an open-minded, open-hearted, spiritual home – a sanctuary of inclusiveness and a safe place to consider the deeper questions in life. We offer all who walk in our door, and who share similar values but not necessarily similar religious beliefs, a chance to be deeply changed by being here and an opportunity to transform us as well with their presence.



## From the Board

### Looking Back at Fiscal Year 2006-07

From time to time, I like to give a detailed update to the congregation on how we are doing financially. The 2006-07 fiscal year was a strong one for Wy'east. We brought in more income than budgeted, spent less than budgeted, and used substantially less of our savings than budgeted.

We received an anonymous \$1,000 donation to establish a Building Fund. The General Assembly bed and breakfast fundraiser brought in \$1,380. The piano fundraiser and music program donations totaled \$553.

Our special collections held on the third Sunday of every month netted \$2,858 to support environmental, economic, and social justice programs and services in our community. During the year, we made twelve special collections, with the following results:

- Berea College \$178
- Esther's Pantry \$292
- Holston Valley Church (Fire Restoration) \$214
- Mercy Corps (Hurricane Relief) \$246
- Milagro/Miracle Theater \$302
- Morning Star Church (Fire Restoration) \$214
- NICWA National Indian Child Welfare \$324
- Our United Villages \$143
- Project Harvest Hope (Transylvanian Villages) \$304
- Sisters of the Road \$271

- SMART Reading Program \$174
- Union Gospel Mission \$196.

As of June 30, 2007, we had the following balances:

- Savings \$23,041
- Building Fund \$1,025
- Music Reserve \$553
- Pre-Paid Pledges \$2,416
- Set-aside for outstanding bill \$322.

Our FY 06-07 income was \$40,098, our expenses were \$46,794, and our use of savings was \$6,697. Income was 108% of budget, expenses were 94% of budget, and our use of savings was only 53% of budgeted.

### Looking Forward to FY 2007-08

Wy'east is building for the future! Our 2007-08 budget is balanced at \$58,300. Members and friends have generously increased their pledges. The Pacific Northwest Unitarian Universalist Growth Fund has granted us \$3,000 and will loan us up to \$9,000. Pledges are our primary source of income, with fundraising, grants, loans, and interest revenue rounding out the picture.

This budget, however, is about so much more than numbers; it supports all that we do and all that we are together: Wy'east's programs, including worship services, Lifespan Religious Education, and community outreach efforts, as well as our minister and Director of Religious Education, the only paid staff. We deeply appreciate the volunteer services of our Music Director, Office Director, and many, many other volunteers. To another great year in community...

Joanne F.  
Board Treasurer ♦

## Music Matters



The Kawai digital piano that was generously donated to our congregation has officially arrived in the sanctuary. For several years, our musicians have been wishing for a more dependable keyboard instrument, and now I would like to offer my appreciation to the many people who helped make this new acquisition a reality.

### Warmest thanks to:

The digital piano's former owner, several of our musicians who tried out the piano and offered their support for acquiring it, the many members and friends of our congregation who made donations during the Note-by-Note Fundraiser to repair the piano and obtain parts to connect it to the sound system, Rev. David Zaworski and the board at Waverly who worked with me to provide space for the instrument, the families who helped move the piano hither and thither in their minivans, Mabel P. who found a lovely piece of brocade material, and Abbie W. who transformed the material into a beautiful cover for the instrument.

### Sincere thanks also to:

Debra T., Morgan S., Sean B., Janelle S. and Ellen G. for the special music they provided during the piano dedication service on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and Paul H., Janelle, Sean, and Mabel for sharing their musical stories with us, Marcia S. who was a wonderful support and spokesperson for stewardship throughout the process, and Rev. Susan Maginn, for sharing ideas on how to celebrate this important milestone with the congregation.

This is a special, caring community. I offer heartfelt thanks to all of you for supporting our music program.

Yours in harmony,

Linda Jo R.

Music Director ♦

## LRE

### Lifespan Religious Education



Our Religious Education classes have begun, and I wanted to take a moment to talk about what happens each week with the children and youth of Wy'east, from a spiritual perspective, and to share with you a few of my own personal values and beliefs about Religious Education.

I believe my “aha!” moment came last year, during a Children's Chapel I led about “Dia De Los Muertos,” or Day of the Dead. It was not a conventional success. I had asked the kids to bring in photos or memories of a loved one who had died, and one child did, and shared. I built an altar in the Mexican tradition, and explained it to the children. We ate Mexican wedding cookies. Nothing went wrong, but the spark wasn't really there either. After snack, I realized we needed to switch gears, and called everyone over to play “Duck, Duck, Goose.”

*Continued*

That was the moment it happened, Older and younger children playing together. Kids laughing and falling into my lap as they chased each other around the circle. That was the moment that I realized that first and foremost, RE is about kids feeling loved. It hit me that they probably wouldn't remember much about Day of the Dead, but they would remember the feeling of Church. Of Religious Education. Of having adults who care about them, and a community that loves them no matter what.

Consistency is valuable in Religious Education too. I believe it's important for kids to see the same adults each week. This consistency builds trust and safety for the kids, and they are able to open up about their feelings. We also use rituals each week, from being sung out of the service, to the songs that open and end our classes.

And yes, it's important to teach kids too. We teach them about our UU principles, and our values of inclusiveness and respect for others. We teach them about our congregation, and what it means to be in community. We teach them stories from our tradition and others, so they learn about their own faith, and the faith of those with whom they share this world, and the wisdom that is handed down in stories. And most of all, we teach them that each person, including themselves, are important, and valuable, and loved.

In faith,

Marcia S.

Director of Religious Education ♦

## Remember to Come to the Class on Questions of Faith

Who am I? How do I know what I know? Who – or what – is in charge of all that exists? What is my purpose in life? What happens after I die? Come to “The Five Questions” class this fall and explore these mysteries of faith in a supportive small group setting.

The class will meet on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. in Hyde Hall on: October 2, 9, 16, 23, and November 6, and 13. (Note: there will be no meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup>.) If you are interested in this exciting journey of growth and discovery, please email Rev. Susan Maginn at [susan.maginn@gmail.com](mailto:susan.maginn@gmail.com). ♦

## Meeting about Small Group Ministry

Come to a special meeting on small group ministry after the worship service on Oct 21. This meeting will be a chance to let Rev. Maginn know that you are interested in participating in a small group and what days and times might be best for you. You can also contact her directly with this information at 503-867-7310 or [susan.maginn@gmail.com](mailto:susan.maginn@gmail.com). ♦

## Join Us for a Fellowship Weekend at Camp Adams

Wy'east's fellowship weekend at Camp Adams is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Come get to know your fellow Wy'easters better as we socialize, hike, play games, and break bread together at the United Church of Christ's beautiful camp near Molalla. We will be gathering from noon on Saturday, October 21 to noon on Sunday, October 22. As always, friends are welcome as well. Please contact Bruce M. for signup forms and more information. ♦

## Happy Anniversary Linda Jo!

This October marks the third anniversary of Linda Jo R. serving as Wy'east's Music Director.

Linda Jo directs the chamber ensemble and the choir, organized a fundraiser for our new piano (not to mention arranging for it to be repaired and delivered to Wy'east), regularly selects musicians for our worship services, suggests hymns for worship themes, serves on the worship committee and is in the process of organizing a music committee.

Mabel P. remembers when Linda Jo started coming around Wy'east. "It was three years ago when I was facilitator for a Caring Circle. We were meeting in someone's home and I had invited Linda Jo to join us. She did visit that one evening and said that when her daughter Alana was in pre-school she would hope to join our Caring Circle. Linda Jo and family were recent attendees to Wy'east at the time, so we were filling her in about Wy'east activities. I explained that we had a group of singers and no leader. Linda Jo said she was interested. She jumped right in to lead our Wyeast singers and that was the beginning of our good fortune. She is a gem!"

And one of the gems of Wy'east is its music program. Many larger churches would love to have such a rich and varied commitment to music. Next time you see Linda Jo, say 'thank you' for her love of music and her love of Wy'east. ♦

## October Office Hours

Rich H. will be in the office at Waverly from 1-3 p.m. most Wednesdays in October: 3, 17, 24, and 31<sup>st</sup> and on one Friday: October 12. If you have questions or church business, please call (503) 777-3704 during these hours. ♦

## UU Adventures in Eating



Join us for our **First Sunday Supper** on October 7 after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share. October 14 is **Second Sunday Soup**. Bring a vegetable to church and drop it off in the basket by the entrance. Mark Alter will use it to make a tasty vegetarian soup for all to enjoy after church. Bread and salad are always welcome too. On October 21 after the service and social hour, we'll head out for a **Restaurant Adventure**, location to be announced. If you'd like to take part, please tell Tode O. that day. He'll get a count and call ahead so our table will be ready. ♦

## Newsletter News

Articles and calendar items for the November newsletter are due by 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17. Please send submissions to:  
*nyeast-news-editor@bolycom.portland.or.us.*

We encourage one and all (kids too!) to participate. Share your original artwork or poetry, or book and movie recommendations – anything that has been meaningful to you and helped you on your spiritual path.

We're still also looking for a volunteer or two to help with the fast and simple, yet important, tasks involved in getting the newsletter to print and in everyone's hands. Most of these tasks can be done in front of the TV or radio or while talking to friends. Let us know if you have a little time to spare and want to lend a hand.

— Laura R. & Abbie W.

## Book Nook



### Book Review

*From Mark A.*

#### Fun Home by Alison Bechdel

This is a remarkable book - for its hero's journey, family compassion, and naked truth.

In real life, Alison Bechdel is the celebrated creator of *Dykes to Watch Out For* - the funny, familial, and feisty twenty-year-old cartoon strip running in 50 GLBT newspapers across the country. In real life, however, Alison Bechdel is also the powerhouse and pained portraitist of her own birth family's "tragicomic," life-flouring and death-wilting dance.

Her dad is gay. But closeted. Alison comes out, landing on ground her father never finds. She has been both gratefully caught in mid-air by him, and hurtfully second-fiddled to his prettifying addictions. They are entwined partners in a gender journey of accomplished artistry; the world's greatest literature deeply embraced; one path impassable, one debris-free.

It took Alison Bechdel seven years to write and draw this truest of family histories. I'm not surprised. It becomes what is a great American graphic novel - one 232 page love letter to the dad she never had, and the one she did.

If people are interested, I will lead a discussion on Fun Home. I am going to ask a dear lesbian friend of mine and big time fan of Alison Bechdel (she has heard her in person) to co-lead it with me. In the meantime, check out the glowing, featured write-up about Fun Home on Wikipedia. And read the book. ♦

### Book Review

*From Barbara S.-T.*

#### Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers by Daniel Ellsberg

Daniel Ellsberg chronicles his journey from 'Cold Warrior' working as a Rand Company consultant and in the Department of Defense to a Vietnam peace activist, including his indictment and (mis)trial for leaking the 7,000 page long Pentagon Papers. It's a long story (457 pages of small type), but a fascinating look at the inner workings of war policy and the White House – almost certainly relevant today. It's also well written; though not an easy read, it is well worth the effort. ♦

### Website Review

*From James S.*

For anyone interested in basic Astrology, I recommend going to [alabe.com/freechart](http://alabe.com/freechart), to get a sample of your personal chart. This site is great for people new to Astrology. All you need to do is type in your birth date, time, and place and the computer does it instantly and for free.

I regard Astrology as a tool for gaining insight into oneself and a better understanding of one's place in the world, as long as people who use it don't obsess over it and consult it for every decision. ♦

## Denominational Doings

### Weekend for Young Adults: CONnectivity

This fall, the District's young adult gathering happens right here in Portland, at West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. This event, on October 12-14<sup>th</sup>, is a great chance to meet other UUs in the area! Registration forms (required) are at: [www.pnwd.org](http://www.pnwd.org). If you have questions, contact Kristy at: [hoguek@u.washington.edu](mailto:hoguek@u.washington.edu). ♦

# A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

## October 7 WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT FORGIVENESS?

Forgiveness is a central teaching in many religious traditions. But when the need for forgiveness comes close to home, what does it really mean to admit that you have wronged and to ask forgiveness? What does it mean to have been deeply hurt and to offer forgiveness? The way we answer these questions will shape the relationships we hold most dear. Rev. Susan Maginn will be in the pulpit.

**Choir Rehearsal:** 4:00 p.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K-5th): Children attend the beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

**First Sunday Supper:** Bring a potluck dish to share following the service.

## October 14 NOW IS THE TIME

Today we will join congregations across the U.S. in celebration of "Association Sunday," a day to support our denomination and a new public campaign to grow our faith. Now is the time to bring our message of peace, justice and religious inclusiveness to the world. A special offering for this outreach work will be taken during the service. Judi McGavin of Michael Servetus UU Congregation in Vancouver, Washington, will be in the pulpit.

**Choir Rehearsal:** 4:00 p.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K-5th): Children attend the beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

**Second Sunday Soup:** Bring a vegetable to church. Contributions of bread and salad are also welcome.

## October 21 THE FAITHFUL HERETIC

Many of us come to religious life with more questions than answers. How can we be uncertain and yet still live a life of profound devotion? Rev. Susan Maginn will lead this service.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K-5th): Children attend the beginning of the service, 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.

## October 28 ALL SAINTS, REFORMATION, AND RADICAL REORIENTATION

Saints are not "nice people." They are set apart and remembered precisely because they were conduits for change. As we approach All Saints Day, we recall the touchstone reformation moment when Luther nailed his 95 theses to the chapel door. Can we hear a call for us, today, to commit our lives to that which will radically challenge and change? The Rev. David Zaworski, pastor at Waverly Heights UCC, will be in the pulpit.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K-5th): Children attend the beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

*Raul M. will be Rev. Maginn's Lay Leader for the month of October. Please also note that you may see some changes in our order of service this fall as Rev. Maginn integrates new pieces.*

OofS=order of service

## October 2007 — Calendar of Events

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

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3 10am OofS Deadline 12-1pm Lunch with Susan 1-3pm Office Hours 7:15 pm Board Meeting	4	5	6
7 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 6pm Potluck	8	9 7 pm Worship Committee	10 10am OofS Deadline	11	12 1-3pm Office Hours	13
14 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 6pm Soup Supper	15	16	17 10am OofS Deadline 1-3pm Office Hours 7pm Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20 12pm Camp Adams Retreat Starts
21 12pm Camp Adams Ends 5pm Service 6pm Small Group Info. Mtg. 6pm Social Hour 7pm Restaurant Adventure	22	23	24 10am OofS Deadline 1-3pm Office Hours 7-9pm Membership Comm.	25	26 7-9pm Committee on Ministry	27
28 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour	29	30	31 10am OofS Deadline 1-3pm Office Hours			

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