



# 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]

September 2008

*What's Inside?*

*Liberal Religious  
Education  
...Page 2...*

*Summertime and  
the Living is Busy  
...Page 3...*

*What is new at  
Wy'east this fall?  
...Page 4...*

*Sunday Services  
...Page 5...*

## Reveries ♦♦♦

By Rev. Susan Maginn

A child was recently tested for a disability. She was given a battery of standardized tests, which has always seemed to me an odd way to understand the heart or mind of a child.

In the opposites section of the standardized test she was asked, "What is the opposite of love?" The child responded: "Broken."

My guess is that the right answer to this question was "hate." What I find so terrific about this beautifully incorrect answer is that this little girl clearly understands something about what happens to us when we live without love.

If hatred is indeed the opposite of love, it is true that hatred does make us "broken." When hatred enters our spirit it is like an infection entering our immune system. Our entire spirit is thrown by the hatred. Our thoughts are consumed. It is as if we drink poison and hope someone else will die. But really, we are the ones who suffer by letting hatred into our lives.

We are not able to absorb the love that is in our life, or could be in our life, because the hatred overshadows it all. The hatred keeps us from appreciating the blessings in our life and when blessings are unappreciated, they often leave. Thus starting a cycle of loss and isolation.

*The only antidote for  
hatred is compassion.*

The only antidote for hatred is compassion. Sometimes forgiveness and reconciliation are possible, sometimes not. But we can always find compassion. For a moment, we can put on the rose colored glasses of compassion and imagine the struggles of that person, their vulnerabilities and fears.

Who knows where this will lead, perhaps it could even lead to a renewal of the relationship. Hard to say, but wearing those glasses will definitely be a first step toward releasing hatred. And then you can ask yourself: What is the opposite of broken?

*Susan*

## From the DRE



As we begin our 2008-2009 Liberal Religious Education school year, I am overwhelmed at the wisdom, commitment, and love I have seen in our volunteer teachers and assistants. I knew I would be working with smart, caring people; however, I wasn't prepared for the depth of their care about the children.

Our children's LRE teachers and assistants have expressed that they want their students to gain the following during this school year:

- Unitarian Universalist values and culture
- A sense of community and connectedness
- The feeling that church is valuable and positive
- Personal memories and a sense of Wy'east church history
- Feeling respected and validated
- Intellectual challenges
- A sense of awe

Nourishing the spirits of our children at Wy'east has never been more important. In dark moments, I am insecure about what tomorrow holds for our children. We all desire a peaceful, livable world for the next generation. On Sundays, when we bring our beautiful children to this Unitarian Universalist community, we are offering them faith, hope, and love. These are spiritual gifts that will sustain them during their future journeys.

Yours in faith,

*Christine W.*

Director of Religious Education

## Wy'east Religious Ed News

The new church year is almost upon us! Before classes start up again, the R.E. Committee wanted to inform you of a change related to registration.

As we mentioned in the summer newsletter, Wy'east is moving towards instituting Safe Congregation practices. Part of that effort will include performing background checks on all teachers and caregivers (and asking parents to help out sometimes in the classroom so we'll have 2 adults present each week).

In order to cover the cost of background checks, the RE Committee and Wy'east Board came up with the solution of charging a small registration fee for participants in the RE program. The fee will be \$15 per child, with a maximum of \$30 per family. Scholarships will be available if the fee would be a hardship for your family.

We explored whether other churches have such a registration fee and what they charge. We found that registration fees are common. Very large congregations, like First Unitarian in Portland, charge up to \$120 a year per child, and smaller congregations, like Wy'east, generally charge anywhere from \$20-\$50 a year per child, so we're at the lower end of the range.

If you have any questions or comments about this issue, or if you're interested in a scholarship, please contact Laura R., R.E. Chair, or Christine W. Thanks!

The R.E. Committee

### Newsletter News

Submissions for the October newsletter are due by **7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19th.**

Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to:  
*wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com.*

That's a **new email address.**

— Sharai E.



## From the Board Summertime and the Living is ... *Busy*

Somewhere along the way, there arose the cliché of summer as a time when life comes to a temporary standstill.

I don't know where that notion came from because it doesn't at all resemble my life - and probably not yours either. In my work (residential real estate), summer is typically the busiest time as people are moving to new homes while the weather is good and school is out. Even with some time off, we find ourselves busy with summer camp, swim lessons, gardening, hiking, attending outdoor events, and going on short and long trips.

Wy'east has been a busy place too, with weekly services and more. I'd like to say thanks to a few people who have done anything but slow down these past few months:

Thanks to Mabel P. for making sure we had interesting speakers in our pulpit and friendly greeters each week.

Thanks to Debra T. who kept social hours going all summer long and provided music at our services as well.

Thanks to everyone who led fun "Wy'Camp" activities for the children.

Thanks to Christine W., our new Director of Religious Education, and the LRE Committee for implementing the process of background checks for teachers and caregivers. Something that seemed daunting at first glance, turned out to be, thanks to the Internet and our insurance company, relatively easy to implement.

Thanks also to Katy M. and others who have spent much time this spring and summer on the building search. People have explored buildings in Southeast, Northeast, and North Portland; big buildings, small buildings, public buildings, religious buildings, theatre buildings. We have found places that were too big or too small, too expensive, or just not interested in renting space on Sundays. It's felt a bit like being Goldilocks, but never quite finding that

happy medium that's "just right" – and the three bears are on the way home anyway.

So, the search goes on. And here comes a new church year to boot. Time to begin the next chapter of this ever-exciting tale...

*Karl A.*  
Board Moderator ♦

## 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@weeastuu.org](mailto:minister@weeastuu.org) or (503) 867-7310. Rev. Maginn *does* have phone hours, so these would be the best time to reach her. Currently, they are M/W from 8:30 am-1 pm. If you have questions for the Wy'east 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. ♦

## Worship Odds & Ends

Rev. Maginn is going to start posting **sound files of her sermons and prayers** on the Wy'east Web site—especially to support those people who are teaching children's religious education during worship. She usually does not write out her sermons, so a sound file is the best way to stay in the loop when you can't be at the service. Thank you Anders L. for selecting a recording device and getting it ready to roll!

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 September that is Maude H.

## *What is new at Wy'east this fall?*

Oh my, where to begin?

The biggest change at Wy'east is Christine W., our new Director of Religious . Check this out: last year we had four RE teachers (for four classes) and no one on the Religious Education committee. This year 11 people (that's right – 11!) have stepped forward to be involved in teaching or assisting RE! We can now offer weekly classes for children from Pre-K through high school. And there are three other people (Laura R., Sharron H. and Gina O.) who are serving on the RE committee. For a congregation our size, this is a huge percentage of people dedicated to children's RE. What great news that children's religious education will be such a big priority for Wy'east this year.

We have a revitalized worship committee who will keep our Sunday services vibrant. Again comparing this to last year, the worship committee had dwindled down to two and this year we have four new people serving the committee! The worship committee has taken the lead on initiating weekly discussion groups after the worship service to reflect on how the theme of the day resonates in your life. We are also changing the order of service to have the children leave after the first 10 minutes of worship, so they can have a full 50 minutes with their RE class.

The building search continues. Stay tuned for updates about that from the Board.

Chalice circles started last year and were really popular. Chalice circles are small groups that meet in people's homes. The chalice circle meets regularly (could be monthly for 10 months or weekly for 10 weeks in a row), follows a session designed to help us talk about spiritual topics. This year we are not sure how it is going to go. The number of chalice circles we offer will all depend on how many people volunteer to be facilitators. Again, stay tuned.

I'll offer a New UU class in the next month or so, for those who are on the path to membership at Wy'east. During this class we'll talk about your spiritual path thus far, UU history and getting settled into Wy'east. This is open to all at Wy'east, new and long-time members.

Feed The Spirit service project will start this year when we will organize to help the hungry in the Portland area.

There is much happening around Wy'east this year. My hope is that each of us can find a place where we feel called to serve this community. May we all receive *and* offer the gift of spirit that is renewing and inspiring.

--Susan

**The Men's Chalice Circle** will resume in September, meeting Thursday evenings from 7:15-9:15 at the home of Raul M. Meeting times for other chalice circles are still TBD.

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## UU Adventures in Eating



Join us for our First Sunday Supper on September 7th after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share. September 14th 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. On September 21st 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. ♦

## 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 for us to easily update you 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 Christine Walsh at church to get this process rolling.

For a fun **introduction to Unitarian Universalism**, go to You Tube and watch a 10 minute video called "Voices of a Liberal Faith:"  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzpj1W2HKIU>.

**Rev. Maginn has a blog!** Check it out at: [www.rev-susan.blogspot.com](http://www.rev-susan.blogspot.com). ♦

# A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

## **September 7 SWIMMING IN THE DEEP END**

Most of us have an easy time seeing the blessings in times of happiness and beauty. But where is the Spirit in those times that rock us to our core and all seems lost? Is the Spirit taking a vacation or in control every step of the way? Today is our water communion. Service by Rev. Susan Maginn.

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

**Service:** 5:00 p.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K-8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **September 14 THE LONGEST WALK**

Earlier this year Native Americans invited people of all races and cultures to join them on a prayer walk from California to Washington, DC. They sought the healing of Mother Earth, the protection of sacred sites, and the protection of human rights. Wy'east member Willow Sage Dixon shares her reflections and insights as a participant in this five-month spiritual journey.

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

**Service:** 5:00 p.m.

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

**Second Sunday Salad:** Bring a vegetable to church for the salad. Bread or desserts are appreciated too.

## **September 21 THE CALL TO AUTHENTICITY**

Are you living the life you are “called” to live? Does your life reflect who you truly are and wish to become? The “calls” that summon us to an authentic life are varied: quiet ones or blasts of thunder, one-time summons or unrelenting messages. We’ll examine the various ways we are called to be ourselves, as well as the pitfalls of answering false calls or ignoring true ones. Jeanette Leardi of Charlotte, N.C., is a freelance writer, editor, and teacher of journaling, spiritual writing, and personal mythmaking. As a U.U. lay leader, she has presented Sunday services throughout North and South Carolina. This is her first time in the pulpit of Wy'east.

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

**Service:** 5:00 p.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K-8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **September 28 REED COLLEGE UU**

The Reed UU Group will be leading the service this Sunday. Wy'East has served as a partner and home church for this group for the past 6 years, which has allowed the group to blossom and serve as a welcoming space for Reedies on campus. In their service, the students will be sharing thoughts and feelings about new beginnings.

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

**Service:** 5:00 p.m.

**Religious Education** (Pre-K-8<sup>th</sup> 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

## September 2008 — Calendar of Events

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

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4 7:15 Men's Chalice Circle (Raul's house)	5	6
7 4pm Youth Group (High School) 5pm Service & K-8th Grade RE 6pm Potluck	8	9	10 10am OofS Deadline 7:15pm Board meeting	11 7:15 Men's Chalice Circle (Raul's house)	12	13
14 4pm Youth Group (High School) 5pm Service & K-8th Grade RE 6pm Soup Supper	15	16	17 10am OofS Deadline	18 7:15 Men's Chalice Circle (Raul's house)	19 7pm Newsletter Deadline	20
21 4pm Youth Group (High School) 5pm Service & K-8th Grade RE 6pm Social Hour 7pm Restaurant Adventure	22	23	24 10am OofS Deadline 7:15pm Board meeting	25 7:15 Men's Chalice Circle (Raul's house)	26 7-9pm Committee on Ministry	27
28 4pm Youth Group (High School) 5pm Service & K-8th Grade RE 6pm Social Hour	29	30	31 10am OofS Deadline			

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**Return Service Requested**