



# 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 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

Summer in Portland is serious business. With so many months of gray, you can't mess around when the sun is out. Even this late in the summer I don't take a sunny day for granted. Just today I was pushing my kids into my sunny backyard thinking, "Boy, I'd better get vitamin D into these kids while we have it!"

It has been a wonderful summer. Many relatives have come in to visit us, and every time we get the joy of showing off our fair city, falling in love with it over and over. We have been camping, to the coast and to the mountains, and I have been on a study leave retreat to Mt. Angel Abbey.

But most of my days have been in our neighborhood - filling up the baby pool in the backyard for the kids on the block, reading stories in the hammock, walking to our park after dinner to roll down the hills or taking a morning run with my dog. I think these simple experiences are the ones that have delighted me most. These are the experiences that remind me how much 'home' means to me.

I've moved around a lot in my life and have usually ascribed to the belief that home is within, that home is more of a spiritual reality than a physical one. I am starting to see how much my spirit settles by having a place to return to - again and again. I am starting to see how much there is to learn by staying in place and how good it is to see the world turn from a stable perch.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Sunday Sermons

September 6 **WY'EAST LABOR DAY POTLUCK PICNIC**

September 13 **INGATHERING SUNDAY**, Rev. Susan Maginn

September 20 **CROSS MY HEART**, Rev. Susan Maginn

September 27 **THE TIME FOR TURNING**, Rev. Sue Ayer

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

# Before & After Worship Programming in September

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

## SEPTEMBER 6

- **Labor Day potluck picnic** in Grant Park 10:30 - afternoon

## SEPTEMBER 13

- **Meditation Group** 9:30-10. All are welcome. No experience necessary. Come as you are.
- **Social Hour** 11:30 am.
- **VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project** *is a worker-led organization that empowers immigrants and day laborers to gain control over their working conditions. After the worship service, a VOZ representative will tell you about the realities of day laborers, ask for your help, and give you a chance to ask questions.*

## SEPTEMBER 20

- **Meditation Group** 9:30-10. All are welcome. No experience necessary. Come as you are.
- **Social Hour** 11:30 am.
- **Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty** *is the 501-(c)3 non-profit leading the effort to abolish Oregon's death penalty. The tide is turning around the country in regard to the death penalty, in large part due to the voices of faith communities. The effort in Oregon starts with community organizing, since eventually, the legislature will be asked to place the issue on a ballot for voters to decide. Therefore, organizing advocates is most vital. All of the UU ministers in Oregon have signed onto a declaration to work to abolish the death penalty. This first meeting is to begin a dialogue about the death penalty and identify people who want to become involved in the movement. The format of the meeting will be an open discussion. If members want to become active, Ron Steiner, a volunteer community organizer from OADP will be on hand to share ways for individuals and your congregation to get involved.*

## SEPTEMBER 27

- **Social Hour** 11:30 am
- **Single Parents' Chalice Circle** will have our first gathering after worship today from 12-2. Let's give these parents a chance to take a breather, reflect on their spiritual life and support one another. You can be a part of our important ministry to these special families at Wy'east by providing childcare, or you could be our host and provide lunch. Contact Rev. Susan for more information at [minister@wyeastuu.org](mailto:minister@wyeastuu.org)
- **Restaurant Adventure** 11:40 am, location TBA
- **Bicycle outing** along the Springwater Trail, with Hank and Betty Hadaway

## Special Collections

Wy'east raised **\$2,287.47** during the 08-09 fiscal year for organizations that feed the hungry people of Portland.

That is generosity worth celebrating! Go Wy'east!

**In the coming year**, the focus of some of our special collections for charity on third Sundays will be on **health care**. In September, we will be donating our special collection to North by Northeast Community Health Center, a free health center focused on low-income, uninsured people living in North and Northeast Portland. The mission of the health center is to improve health outcomes in a medically underserved community by offering health screening and basic medical services at no cost.

## Contacting the Minister and Board of Trustees

Susan Maginn has new work hours:

- **Tuesday and Thursday** from 2-6 pm
- **Wednesday** 6-9 pm

Susan can be available at other times as well. Contact her to set an appointment: 503.867.7310 or [minister@wyeastuu.org](mailto:minister@wyeastuu.org).

If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to [wyeast-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:wyeast-board@googlegroups.com) or talk to any Board member (David Tode O., Karl A., Mark Alter, Elizabeth S., or Alex R.) on Sundays at church.

## Social Justice Opportunity

In addition to raising \$250 for Big Brothers Big Sisters this summer, Wy'east adults and kids can volunteer at their annual picnic. Here are the details:

“The Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest annual picnic is the one event where Bigs, Littles, their families, donors, board members, and supporters can all come together to celebrate the power of mentoring.

The picnic will take place on Saturday, September 12 from noon until 3 PM at Columbia Park in North Portland (corner of N Lombard and N Woolsey). There will be live bands, games for kids of all ages, and special appearances by both the Portland Firefighters and Police Department.

Approximately 800 people attend the picnic every year, which requires a lot of planning to coordinate the necessary supplies and logistics. On the day of the picnic we can never have enough volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help set up, tear down, monitor garbage and recycling, check in attendees, run games, assist in the food line, and general crowd control. Volunteers receive lunch and will have access to the first come, first served free table. There will be volunteer opportunities between 10 AM and 4 PM on September 12, including:

- \* Set up -- pitching tents, setting up displays, hanging signs, setting out trash cans, etc: 9am-12pm; about 10 people
- \* Food line -- running between sign in and food line and info booths to make sure everybody gets fed in a timely manner, making sure cooks have everything they need, monitoring supplies: 12-2 or 1-3 pm; 5 or 6 people per time slot
- \* Garbage -- checking bins for capacity, grabbing plates, cups, etc that have been left around: 12-3, one person could fill this job.

## 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.

seeker of truth  
follow no path  
all paths lead where  
truth is here

~ e. e. cummings ~  
(*Complete Poems 1904-1962*)

## Worship Odds & Ends

During worship, 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, people with children, 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 talk to the lay leader before the service begins.

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., Mark A., or Elizabeth S.

Rev. Susan has a **minister's discretionary fund** that is available to people who are going through a tough financial time. For more information contact her directly at [minister@wyeastuu.org](mailto:minister@wyeastuu.org).

## 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](mailto:Hanna.nelson@gmail.com).

Register your **children** in the **religious education (RE)** program. Talk to our Director of RE, Annie H., to get this process rolling.

On September 20th, we will have a **new member ceremony** during our worship service. If you are interested in becoming a member at Wy'east, contact Rev. Susan at [minister@wyeastuu.org](mailto:minister@wyeastuu.org).

## Wy'east Helping Hands

News to date:

- We are building a list of folks who can help with almost anything.
- Join us with your special abilities, and/or ask for what you need, and donate the value of that good or service to Wy'east. Use your imagination!
- Take a look at the poster on the Information Table, and ask Betsy M., coordinator, for information and sign-up forms.

## UU Adventures in Eating



**First Sunday Potluck** – This month our potluck will be a picnic at Grant Park, September 6th, at 10:30 am.

**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.

## Cyber space discussion group for Wy'easters

I'm happy to announce that we now have a google group called "Wy'east UU Congregation discussion group"! This is a cyber space salon where we can have discussions. Wy'easters can come here and listen to ongoing discussions and say your piece if so inclined.

To join, you can go to <http://groups.google.com/group/wyeast-discussion> and click "Apply for group membership" or simply talk to Mikio or Tim M.

## Newsletter News

Submissions for the October newsletter are due by **7 p.m. on Friday, September 18th**. 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).

## Reveries *(continued from page 1)*

And it is good to come home to Wy'east. I'm starting my third year with you and I am so excited by what we are creating together. This fall we have new ideas that many of us are buzzing about - Children's Chapels (see DRE column on the next page for a details), Special Collections going toward organizations providing health care to people in need, Chalice Circle Sundays (services that include a chance to discuss a topic together), Intergenerational Worship, creating a congregational covenant.

Lots of excitement, but the excitement is not about the ideas themselves. The excitement is about connecting with you, with the people of Wy'east, those among us now and those who have yet to come through our doors. The excitement is about connecting to the spirit by which we are all called.

The excitement is about coming home to Wy'east,  
Welcome Home!  
—Susan

## Rev. Maginn has a blog!

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

## Wy'east Labor Day Potluck Picnic

On **Sept 6**, join us at 10:30 am for a Labor Day picnic potluck at the shelter in Grant Park, NE 36th & Brazee, about 6 blocks from the Senior Center.



Just some notes:

- There are no barbecue grills at the park, but you may bring one if it is 6" or more above the ground.
- There are no tables or chairs at the shelter. Please let us know if you can bring some. You may also bring blankets to put on the lawn.
- There is no water faucet, but some jugs of water will be available.
- We encourage you to bring your own plates and utensils from home, but paper plates and plastic utensils will also be available.
- If your potluck dish requires serving utensils, please bring them.
- We must take any trash with us (bags will be provided).
- Parking is available on 36th Avenue. A Map is available at the information table. The shelter is marked "A" in the map on the reverse side.
- For an online map, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/nvea6v>

Questions? Please see Alex R, Hank or Betty H.

# From the DRE

Greetings to you all on these last sweet days of summer...

Before writing this column-which would inevitably speak to those final days of summer-I decided it would be beneficial to take a walk down by the lake and pay my last regards to it all. So, I sat underneath a big tree by the lake and closed my eyes and listened. It was there that an old piece of wisdom rang in my ear along with the wind: "We more often regret those things that we do not do, than those which we do." Why hadn't I come here more? What could possibly be more peaceful than hearing the water lap up against the shore, seeing ducks floating past—all while feeling the rays of sun against your face? Ah, but this is not to be a lamentation, but rather a gentle reminder of what is important, a time to reflect on what we haven't done so that we may be called into action before the season passes.

On that note, with regard to RE, there are several changes and many things still left to be done before the season passes. Currently, we (Susan Maginn, the R.E. committee and myself) are working on the curriculum and age placement for the coming months. Since much of this is currently a work-in-progress, I will share the details in next month's newsletter. For now, however, I would like to share the details of September I do have, along with some of the changes we can expect.

I would also like to take a moment to sincerely thank all of those volunteers who made Wy'Camp such a great success, because without you, it would not have been possible. THANK YOU! The final day of Wy'Camp is August 30th, with September 13th being the official day of the return of religious education. It is my hope that all children will be registered by then with updated information to be able to place them in the learning group appropriate to their age.

So, one of the biggest changes to the RE program, besides that we have lost (and gained) people in our committee as well as teachers to other turns in their lives, we have also added a wonderful component to RE time.

Beginning in September, (most likely the 3rd Sunday and every 3rd Sunday thereafter), we will begin Children's Chapel. For those of you who are not familiar with children's chapel, it is a mixed-age worship service, very similar to a children's worship service. Children's chapel is a great way to build unity and continuity between all the children and teachers, by gathering together once a month. Reverend Maginn is working with me to coordinate the themes of these worship services with her own. Once again, children's chapel is a work-in-progress, and I will write more about it in the next newsletter.

Also, please keep in mind, our water ceremony will be held in September. If you have not yet collected your "holy water," might I suggest taking time for yourself in the last of these halcyon days to sit by a creek or lake and scoop up a little liquid inspiration? Oh, and while you're there-might I also pass to you that gentle reminder to do those things your heart calls you to, before the season passes.

As always, it is a joy and an honor to work with your children and I look forward to seeing them and YOU again soon!

In faith,

*Annie H.*



Dear Wy'east Congregation,

I'd like to reintroduce myself as the new Chair of our Religious Education Committee. This is a very exciting time as our camp seasons ends and we dive into a new year of RE. I feel honored to be a part of what we offer to those I consider to be the heart of our family- our children.

It's been twelve years since I first began my professional work with children. I started out in day care, graduated to preschool, spent some time in homes; I even worked at a baby gym! It was working in day care and being a part of a support system for parents going to college that inspired me to study psychology and whole life development.

I've spent a significant portion of my adult life crawling, playing pretend, and eating goldfish crackers. Also, listening, learning, and teaching with parents and caregivers. The things I've brought away from this experience- the value of play that lasts a life time, that the world embraces us when we run at it heart first, that if you cry loud enough- some kind person will pick you up- are the same things that brought me to the Unitarian Universalist community. I've been so embraced by our congregation, and coming from a family as large as mine, I appreciate the familiarity of experiencing the joys, sorrows, and concerns of our community week after week. You've made me feel at home.

With that in mind, I invite all of our members to help make this home to raise our children in. As lifelong learners we recognize that Religious Education is something we are all taking part in and can share in together. I look forward to serving as Chair of RE, seeing our children attending intergenerational services, and seeing our adults (with or without children) playing.

Enthusiastically,

*Liana A.*

# Wy'east Remembers Reverend Tim Jensen

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The Rev. Tim Jensen was the first ordained minister to serve the Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Rev. Tim, as we called him, died last week after a long battle with cancer. He will be missed by many. Tim Jensen came by the honor of being our first minister in two ways. He was the first professional minister to ever lead one of our regular worship services. His words were moving that day and many were brought to tears. In addition, when Wy'east decided to contract with a religious professional for quarter time ministry, Tim became our first consulting minister. He loved helping new congregations and served many emerging churches in this district as well as serving on the PNWD extension committee.

I have two special memories of Rev. Tim. One is that he loved basketball. He used his neighborhood association rule against putting up a basketball hoop along the street as an example in his sermon on the meaning of covenant. He talked of playing in an all clergy basketball game while serving in Texas where he once got a technical foul for taking the Lord's name in vain on the court. The other memory I want to share is of a day when Rev. Tim gave a workshop for our fledgling worship committee. Worried and unsure as we all were, Tim passed around his Harvard Divinity School cap for each of us to put on for a moment. After this ritual he declared that we had all put on the Harvard beanie and were now as fit as anyone to learn to do good worship that would educate, entertain, and inspire. And with his help, we at Wy'east did learn how, not only to lead worship, but also to begin the work of building a religious community that lives on today.

Thank you, Tim. You live in our memories, in the good pastoring you did in our churches all over this country, and in the congregations you helped to build. We are pleased to be part of your legacy.

— *Rev. Sarah Schurr*



Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation's first minister, the Reverend Tim Jensen, died August 9th after an eighteen-month struggle with lung cancer. He lived near Sacramento, California at the time of his death.

During the 1999-2000 church year, Tim worked on his Ph.D. in History while preaching for Wy'east two Sundays a month. He has also served several other churches on the I-5 Corridor, a church in Texas and another one in Massachusetts. He was most recently the minister of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland, Maine.

Tim is remembered by those who knew him at Wy'east as a big good-humored man with practical advice. The first time he preached at Wy'east as a guest minister in 1996, he wore his cowboy boots under his robe. He said, "If it doesn't go well, I want to die with my boots on." He counseled the worship committee, "It would be good if the service evoked an experience you have been deeply moved by." He admonished all of us, "I am not the only minister here; we all need to minister to each other."

From a sermon delivered by Reverend Jensen on April 5, 2009: "[I]t was never really clear to me from reading whether Jesus actually calmed the storm or simply calmed the nervous sailors until the storm blew over on its own... waves look a lot more threatening than they are."

From his March 15, 2009 sermon: "If Politics is basically the art of living together in civil society (... the "art of the possible"), while Religion reflects our highest values, morals and principles (as well as an occasional belief in miracles), they NEED one another in order to bring out the best in the "body politic," and help us to understand that we are all one people in the boat together."

Tim Jensen's blog, The Eclectic Cleric may still be accessed at <http://onedayisle.blogspot.com/>. On his profile, he claimed as his occupation "Gadfly and general cheerleader for change."

— *Jon B.*

# A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

## September

### **September 6 WY'EAST LABOR DAY POTLUCK PICNIC**

No service at the Senior Center today -- join us instead at 10:30 am for a Labor Day potluck picnic at the shelter in Grant Park. For details, see page 4.

### **September 13 INGATHERING SUNDAY**

This is the Sunday when we look back on our summer adventures with our water ceremony, celebrating coming home to Wy'east and the power of water in our spiritual life. Service led 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.

**Youth Group** (High School Age): 11:30 a.m.

**Social Hour:** Join us for refreshments after the service. Guest presentation by Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

### **September 20 CROSS MY HEART**

Today is a special Chalice Circle Sunday, when the congregation will reflect upon the power of our promises. Our promises - whether they are kept or broken - shape our relationships and our relationships shape who we are. And as we prepare for creating a new Wy'east covenant, we'll consider what promises we live by as a religious community.

**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. Guest presentation by VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project.

### **September 27 THE TIME FOR TURNING**

The high holy days of Judaism that begin with Rosh Hashanah, the New Year, and end with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, are also known as the Days of Awe. This is a time for self-examination and change, a time to mend relationships and turn to new ways of being. Our guest speaker will look at the lessons this profound Jewish tradition holds for Unitarian Universalists. **Rev. Sue Ayer** is the Affiliated Community Minister at the UU Church in Hillsboro and a longtime friend of Wy'east.

**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.



Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
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Portland, OR 97212

**Return Service Requested**

