



The Wy'east Beacon

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

*Whoever you are,
Wherever you come from,
You are welcome here*

'Wy'east': Ancient name for Mount Hood

WWW.WYEASTUU.ORG

January/February 2013

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*Wy'east meets 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!*

Musings from Marcia...

Happy New Year!

Well, legal same-gender marriages happened in Washington state, among other places and the Apocalypse did not. Score one for our team! 2013 looks like a good year to build justice and community within Wy'east and our larger community.

We're off to a good start, both within our own congregation, and outside in the wider community. We have interest groups that gather folks together outside of worship time, social justice events we participate in individually and together, and now the Mt. Hood UU Cluster—a gathering of all the UU Congregations in the Portland/Vancouver area. Hank and Betty Hadaway have been particularly active in setting up this alliance.

(Continued on page 4)

Sunday Sermons

1/6	Epiphany	Amy Beltaine
1/13	Gratitude	Rev. Marcia Stanard
1/20	Feeling Welcomed as Opposed to Being Included	Chom Sou
1/27	Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?	Rev. Marcia Stanard
2/3	Mid-Winter Intergenerational Service	
2/10	Lessons from the King	Rev. Marcia Stanard
2/17	Leadership as Ministry	Tode Oshin
2/24	Faithiest	Rev. Marcia Stanard

(For Sermon Details, See "2 Months Of Sundays", On Pages 6 & 7)

Dinners for Homeless Families

A small group of Wy'east folks made dinner on Dec. 6 for the homeless families who spend the night at Parkrose Community United Church of Christ (12505 NE Halsey). This shelter program is new this fall and is run by Human Solutions. Clay Osborn, from the Parkrose CUCC congregation, is in charge of the dinners, and his goal is to serve a meal every night. However, although the Oregonian has twice written about their program, initial interest has dwindled and now only their congregation's weekly Tuesday night soup meal is a regular commitment. That means that mothers and children will go to bed without a nourishing, home-cooked, evening meal most nights of the week.

It seems reasonable that Wy'east folks could make a dinner happen there once a month, until the shelter closes at the end of April. Since Clay is anxious to have Thursday be a regular night, and that is a good night for many of us, I've asked Clay to put us on his calendar for meals on:

Jan. 10 ~ Feb. 7 ~ March 7 ~ April 11

Thank you to everyone who cooked and/or served on Dec. 6!
We served a lasagne, salad, bread and fruit crisp/fruit salad feast.
Thank you to everyone who has emailed me since then with offers of cooking and/or serving for the upcoming 4 dates.

There is a place for you if you just want to cook or just want to serve or if you'd like to do both. If you can just contribute juice or other non-perishable items, that would be a great help as well. We do the cooking at home, and a few people are needed to take the meal there, set up, serve and then do cleanup. We're there from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. Children are welcome to help.

There have been about 30 people at Parkrose each night—mostly women and children, a few fathers. About half of the 30 are children, so we don't need a tremendous amount of food. Meaty main dishes are most welcome, because these folks don't get regular good-quality protein. Salads and veggies that kids like are also great. Although cookies would be tempting and easy, they prefer no sweets for dessert, but rather fruit or mostly fruit things (like crisp or fruit bread).

If you have spoken to me at Wy'east already (or on the phone), then I have your phone number, but would love to have you on the email list. If you have already emailed me, thank you! When you first email me, you'll get caught in my spam blocker, but I will soon welcome you through the net! cabaumann@earthlink.net

If you can contribute something but aren't part of the serving crew, I am happy to drive around the east side on the day of the dinner and pick up dishes. If you'd like to commit to a specific date now, that would be super. Otherwise, I'll be emailing everyone on the list about 2 weeks before the dinner to start lining up commitments.

Thank you everyone – sharing what we have truly makes a difference for these families who are having such a difficult time this winter!

~Carol Baumann
cabaumann@earthlink.net

Wy'east Special Collections

For the month of **January**, our Special Collection is going to the work of the **Student Alliance Project**, and some of those students will be with us on the 20th, when we make our donations. From the SAP website, here they are in their own words:

We are young people from diverse communities who are strengthening our self-confidence and trust, achieving our goals and becoming advocates and allies for social justice. We are undocumented, immigrant, LGBTQ, indigenous, low-income and gang-affected youth, youth of color, youth transitioning from foster care, homelessness or incarceration, youth with disabilities, teen parents and allies. We are youth who are actively developing alliances, reducing isolation and prejudice, designing joint projects and creating a dynamic regional network of young leaders. Youth are the leaders and decision-makers at all levels of our organization, with coaching from experienced individuals and organizations.

Our **February** special collection goes to support our own Wy'east educational projects on understanding racism. We've already purchased copies of the UUA Everybody Reads book *The New Jim Crow*, and will use the remaining money for other group projects on racism, including renting videos, hosting exhibits, or purchasing books for our lending library.

New Moderator for Board

New board member Robyn Klopp has become the new Wy'east Board Moderator. Tode Oshin agreed to serve as Moderator for the first half of the year until Robyn gained experience on the Board, but didn't wish to hold the position all year. We are grateful to both of them for their service, as well as to our other Board members, Nancy D., Dan E., and Kate M.

Contacting RE & the Board of Trustees

Contact the Religious Education Committee Chair if you have questions about our children's programming at Wy'east: wyeast-re@googlegroups.com.

If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to wyeastboard@googlegroups.com or talk to any board member on Sundays at church.

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE

Across the country, people have been reflecting on the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Can we challenge ourselves to stand on the side of love with everyone involved in this terrible tragedy? Rev. Fred Small (First Parish in Cambridge, Mass, Unitarian Universalist) shared this moving reflection with us. (www.standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/prayer-for-newtown)

Prayer for Newtown

Hearing the news from Connecticut of the deaths of so many people, so many children, our sorrow is beyond words, beyond comforting.

This violence was concentrated terribly in that one schoolhouse in that one small town, and yet this violence is commonplace.

In our beautiful and beloved country, scores of people die from gunfire every day.

In Boston so far this year, 49 people have been murdered, 34 of them by guns. The youngest victim was 9-year-old Christopher Miles. The oldest was Mary Miller, age 70.

Each person precious.

Every violent death an abomination.

We are desolate. We are disconsolate. We are angry.

And so we pray.

Spirit of Life,

God of hope in our despair,

God of compassion and forgiveness,

God of many names and one abundant love:

We pray for parents whose children will never again dash through the kitchen, never slam the door, never spill jelly on the sofa, never wake in the night needing comfort, never leave home, never fall in love, never grow up.

We pray for children whose buddies will never again ask if they can come over and play, whose siblings will never again tease them about their hair or their clothes.

We pray for children whose parents or grandparents will never again pick them up, never hold them close, never tuck them in, never kiss them goodnight.

We pray for every person who has lost a lover, a companion, a friend.

We pray for every child and every adult who will never, ever forget what they experienced in that school Friday morning.

We pray for teachers who must learn lockdown drills as well as prepare lesson plans.

We pray for a culture that fetishizes violence in movies, television, videos, songs, and first-person-shooter electronic games.

We pray for a mental health system so emaciated it makes no pretense of reaching those who desperately need help.

We pray for a criminal justice system that privileges punishment over healing, incarceration over reconciliation.

We pray for a political system so corrupted by wealth and bullied by power that good people are frightened to do what they know is right.

We pray for communities where shootings and other violent acts are daily occurrences.

We pray for those abused by the slow-motion violence of poverty and oppression.

And we pray for ourselves, that we may have the wisdom and the courage to act;

to change the conditions that make these crimes not only possible, but inevitable;

and to build the Beloved Community on this earth,

in this community,

in our time.

Amen and Blessed Be.

Rev. Fred Small

(First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist)

RE Update

After learning about the 2nd Principle in Religious Education (*Justice, equity and compassion in human relations*), Wy'east's children decided to "walk the talk" and host a food and supplies drive for people in need. The recipient was the 13 Salmon Family Day Shelter, a safe place for homeless families to spend their days, that is located in the basement of the First Unitarian Church downtown. The drive was a tremendous success and many bags of food and supplies were donated. On December 13, a few Wy'east children and adults met at the Shelter to drop off the supplies and receive a tour of the facility. The children asked good questions and found out that the Shelter is always seeking donations of such things as diapers (especially larger sized), wipes, granola bars, juice boxes, and hotel-sized hygiene products (such as shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.). Let's hear it for our littlest UU activists!

~Shayna C.

From the Minister *(Continued)*

Several of our interest groups are still going strong. The senior one is perhaps the most active, with regular social activities and a strong commitment to do things for the congregation as a whole. Three other groups meeting regularly focus on the environment, poetry and social justice. And two more which are looking for new members to join some already committed people are about meditation and an intergenerational book club. In January, we will be opening the interest group process again, and see if other focuses have energy behind them. All of the groups accept new members at any point, but January is a good time to consider committing to another way to be together.

Also in January, I will be leading a small group opportunity for spiritual deepening. We will be meeting Wednesday evenings (which conceivably could change to Thursdays) at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church at 44th and Sandy, between 7 and 8:30 to go through Evensong 2, a UU curriculum that involves sharing circles, readings and singing together. I led this curriculum at Wy'east several years ago and found it a nice way to gather together for spiritual deepening. Please contact me if you're interested. We need at least 5 people to make a go of this. The group will meet each week from January 9-February 20th.

I've enjoyed meeting with people interested in membership. If you're interested in meeting with me about membership, events in your life, or simply to get to know one another better, please contact me at minister@wyeastuu.org, or by phone. I look forward to time together outside of worship. Let's forge our bonds of community through small group experiences, building a wider UU network locally, and in individual meetings. Have a blessed, and connected New Year.

Warmly,
Marcia

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the March/April issue submissions is Thursday, February 14th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to: wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com. If you have any questions, contact Sharai E. or send an email to the above address.

To save paper and printing costs, we are printing fewer copies of the newsletter. We encourage you to view it online, at: <http://wyeastuu.org/newsletter>

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Wy'east just completed our fourth time serving at the Clay Street Table **feeding the downtown homeless** Saturday morning breakfast program, which we do once a quarter at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. We partner with First Unitarian in doing this, and our shifts in 2013 are on March 23rd, June 22nd, August 24th, and November 23rd. If you're interested, see Mark A.

Also, there is the Hollywood Senior Center every third Saturday of the month **breakfast program**. This is low key, family friendly, and Wy'east members and children would be welcome to volunteer at it. The hours are from 8:30 to 10:30 am. You could just show up, or here's the email address for the organizer: susan.rossiter@state.or.us

Worship Odds & Ends

On Sundays, 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; it will make room for others who are new, people with children (who need to make quick escapes), or people who want to discreetly enter after the service begins. Thanks!

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 or talk to Mark A., Brooke C., Amy O., or Marcia S.

If your child wants to light the chalice during a worship service, please contact anyone from the worship committee.

Getting Connected @ Wy'east

Join the Wy'east Google Groups

Wy'east has two community-wide email lists through Google: "Wyeast" (for news and announcements about church events) and "Wyeast-chat" (an informal way for members and friends to share thoughts or events that are not official church happenings).

To subscribe to these groups,
go to www.wyeastuu.org/contact
or groups.google.com/group/wyeast
and groups.google.com/group/wyeast-chat

Wy'east Directory

Wy'east has a directory of contact information for lots of people in the community. If you don't know where to find the directory, you're probably not in it; emails are sent periodically to everyone in the directory with instructions on how to access it. If you'd like to be added to our directory, contact Betty H. or anyone on the Connections Committee.

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in January & February

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in the future, please contact Amy O., Brooke C., or Mark A.

January 6

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

January 13

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.

January 20

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

January 27

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am



February 3

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

February 10

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.

February 17

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

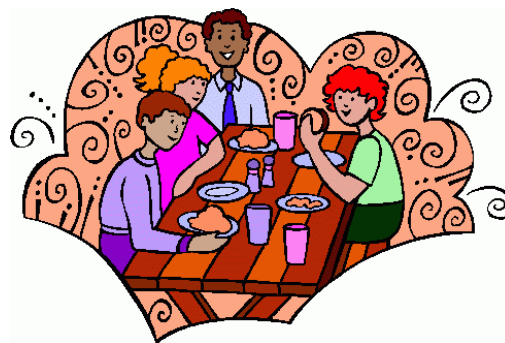
February 24

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am

UU Adventures in Eating

Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks are held on the second Sunday of each month, **January 13th** and **February 10th** at 11:30 am. Bring a 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, gather a list of interested congregants, and then 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.

January

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

January 6 EPIPHANY

Epiphany is a Christian celebration of God as a human being in Jesus. It is associated with the arrival of the wise Magi, bearing gifts for the newborn babe. The original Greek word meant the arrival of dawn, sunrise. Later it indicated the encounter of a human being with a God. In January we are blessed by the gifts of a few more moments of sunlight each morning. Today we use epiphany to mean a bright flash of insight. What are the gifts that wisdom brings to us on this day, in this time, and how might we celebrate our own encounters with sacred wisdom within us and around us? **Amy Beltaine** is a Spiritual Director and Unitarian Universalist Minister, endlessly fascinated and excited by the mystical experience of the sacred in nature and relationships.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to RE.

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

January 13 GRATITUDE

Anne Lamott writes that prayer can be broken down to Help, Thanks, and Wow. Today's sermon focuses on Thanks, and celebrates the concept of gratitude in our lives. In a world where bad things happen, what do we have to be grateful for?

Service by our minister, **Rev. Marcia Stanard**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to RE.

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Wy'east Potluck Brunch: 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

January 20 FEELING WELCOMED AS OPPOSED TO BEING INCLUDED

"We will become our deepest and truest selves together" is a passage from our covenant. This states that we can be our whole selves and are assured that no matter where we come from, we are welcomed. However, when we are trying to include people who are from diverse backgrounds with differing opinions, how does this affect the congregation's identity and growth? Service by **Chom Sou**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to RE.

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

January 27 WHERE DO WE COME FROM? WHAT ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Today we learn about and celebrate Wy'east. What's our history as a congregation? What do we look like today? What's our vision going forward? Come for the sermon, and stay for a listening circle conversation about our visions. Come prepared to share how you feel about this religious community we call Wy'east—or, simply come to listen. Today is a day for people to be heard. Service by our minister, **Rev. Marcia Stanard**. Listening circle by our members and friends.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

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

February 3 MID-WINTER INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE

Due to the Vietnamese community's annual Tet celebration (held at at the Hollywood Senior Center), we will be meeting at Wee Works Preschool (located just across the street from our usual meeting place at the Hollywood Senior Center.) Children and adults will share in creating a service that reflects upon some of our Seven Principles.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Families will be together for this intergenerational service, so there will be no RE. Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

February 10 LESSONS FROM THE KING

Martin Luther King Jr. wrestled with his faith and the laws of his time. It would have been easier just to preach about religion, but for him, justice and equality were an integral part of his understanding of religion. What lessons can we learn about doing the right thing? Service by our minister, **Rev. Marcia Stanard**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

Wy'east Potluck Brunch: 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

February 17 LEADERSHIP AS MINISTRY

Wy'east member and sometimes Board Moderator, **Tode Oshin**, will draw on his many and varied leadership experiences to share a very personal view of the 5th UU principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to RE.

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Our fifth principle:

The right of *conscience*
and the use of the
democratic process
within our congregations
and in society at large.

February 24 FAITHIEST

Chris Stedman, a former classmate of Rev. Marcia's has written a book about his journey from born-again Christian, to gay atheist, to religious (and still gay) atheist, working in interfaith community. In our own Unitarian Universalist congregation where atheists and agnostics come together with others in religious community, what lessons do we have to learn about accepting and celebrating one another's differences? Service by our minister, **Rev. Marcia Stanard**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to RE.

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.