

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

July/August 2017

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*Wy'east meets at the
Hollywood Senior Center
(HSC) at 1820 NE 40th,
Portland, Oregon. Services
begin at 10:30 a.m.*

Service Animals Welcome

*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!*

SUNDAY SERMONS

7/2	Interdependence Day Picnic	Creston Park
7/9	What's It All About, Alfie and Annie and Angelo?	Rev. Heather Lynn Hanson
7/16	House Keys, Not Handcuffs	Monica Beemer, MSW
7/23	Doula Work, Doula Life	Kate Fricke
7/30	Musical Service	Matt Lynch
8/6	Vulnerability and UU	Derrick Mustelier
8/13	Building Community	Jenny Glass
8/20	The G.A. Experience	Lana Aburto
8/27	This I Believe	Barbara Smith-Thomas

(For sermon details, See "2 Months Of Sundays," on Pages 6 & 7)

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, please contact Hank H.

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 wyeast-board@googlegroups.com or talk to any board member on Sundays at church.

Wy'east Board Meetings

The board meets on the **second Tuesday** of the month, so the upcoming meetings are **July 11th** and **August 8th**, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. We meet at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church (1907 NE 45th Ave.), either in the library or the conference room next to our office.

If you are planning to come to the meeting be sure to let a board member know so that we can make sure someone monitors the door to let you in.

Beyond the Threshold

1952's *Ikiru* (To Live) has stood the test of time. Directed by Akira Kurosawa, it stars the great Takashi Shimura as a minor Tokyo civil servant who, after living his life for years without much interest, learns that he is terminally ill. Now he wonders: how can I learn to really live? He quits his job to search for an answer, but finds that each path he tries leads to a dead-end. Then to everyone's surprise he returns to work, approaching it in a new way, with commitment and passion, dedicating himself to building a children's park in a bleak urban neighborhood.

What has changed? He has decided to cross the threshold of his life, and really go "inside", where he finds something much bigger than the front porch where he had waited for so long.

On September 17, after the Sunday service, all friends of Wy'east who wish to come further inside and help us build a bigger home are welcome to join Rev. Moro and our Membership team to talk about what new experiences may be waiting beyond the threshold.

From the UU World Magazine

Reframing the health care conversation

The persistent myth that poor people need less is putting them at risk.

by Doug Muder

One common assumption runs through nearly all American antipoverty programs: the poorer you are, the less you need to get by. Across the board, those who benefit from government assistance shouldn't be living as well as the taxpayers who provide that assistance.

We take for granted that public housing isn't large or luxurious, and it is scandalous if food stamps purchase lobster. A recent Kansas law lists places where a Temporary Assistance to Needy Families benefit card can't be used, including cruise ships and theme parks. Many Americans are deeply upset by the thought that their tax dollars might buy someone else luxuries they deny themselves.

For the working poor, an unexpected expense might be catastrophic.

If such an attitude seems like common sense—or at worst harmless—in most settings, there is at least one area where it steers public policy astray: health insurance. At its root, all insurance is based on a backwards logic. You are making a bet that you hope to lose, one that will pay off if your house burns down or your car is totaled. As a result, many things about insurance run exactly opposite to common sense, including this: the poorer you are, the better your health insurance needs to be. In other words, if (like me) you are an American of average or above-average means, you should be paying taxes so that the poor can have a level of health insurance that you may be able to get by without. As crazy as it may sound, health insurance is the unique situation in which the poor should be the ones getting the lobsters and the penthouse views.

For the moment, Obamacare has survived, but even it is based on the idea that the poor and near-poor can get by with less. Those who, even with subsidies, can only afford "bronze" plans may face higher deductibles and co-pays than middle-class and wealthy Americans. But, we think, shouldn't they be happy just to have insurance at all?

To see what's wrong with that logic, continue reading at www.uuworld.org/articles/reframing-health-care-conversation/

Special Collections for July & August

July: WRAP

WRAP (Western Regional Advocacy Project) was created to expose and eliminate the root causes of civil and human rights abuses of people experiencing poverty and homelessness in our communities. By bringing together some of the fiercest organizations fighting homelessness on the West Coast, WRAP has developed a unique structure that combines the following four goals: 1) uniting local social justice organizations into an inclusive movement, 2) holding the federal government responsible for restoring affordable housing as well as protecting poor and homeless people's rights, 3) developing effective and socially just solutions to barriers that prevent the ending of homelessness, and 4) ensuring the policies of local, state, and federal governments are grounded in the common truths of poor and homeless people. WRAP uses a variety of strategies to achieve these goals, including: community organizing, advocacy, research, public education, direct action, and artwork. This power of collective mobilization gives WRAP the strength, experience, and legitimacy to make ending homelessness a national priority.



www.wrAPHOME.org/mission-goals

August:

BLACK LIVES UU



Formed in the wake of several conversations among Black Unitarian Universalists at the July 2015 Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland, Ohio, the BLUU Organizing Collective works to provide

support, information and resources for Black UUs, including ways for Black UUs to get connected to one another. It also works to expand the role and visibility of Black UUs within our faith. Earlier this year, it acted as the catalyst for 600+ UU congregations nationwide – nearly two-thirds of the total – including Wy'east, to hold services and forums to examine how

whiteness continues to manifest in UU culture and begin planning how to engage more effectively in racial justice work. The Collective is also advocating for the adoption of an 8th principle to codify a commitment to “accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” (Given that BLACK LIVES UU is part of the UUA rather than having its own 501c3 status, we'll be sending our one total special collection check to the UUA in Boston, with BLUU in the memo line. This is what we were advised to do by the UUA.)

www.blacklivesuu.com

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is August 17th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book reviews, favorite spiritual practices 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/>.

Summer Wy'Camp

Every year our Religious Education teachers take the summer off from teaching. During this time, we invite volunteers to hang out with our kids during Sunday service and provide a 15 minute activity. Volunteers can read a favorite children's book, bring and tell about an object found traveling, or provide some other interesting activity. Last year we learned about yoga, drumming and friends; we made ice cream, paintings and paper crafts. Our childcare person, Fiona, will be in attendance most weeks to help with the youngest kids.

We also need a few extra volunteers when Fiona is out of town to help herd the children across the street and keep them safe. If you are interested in helping out, please let Anders know.



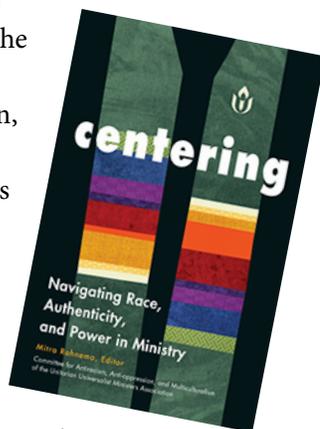
From the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association)

Unitarian Universalist Common Read

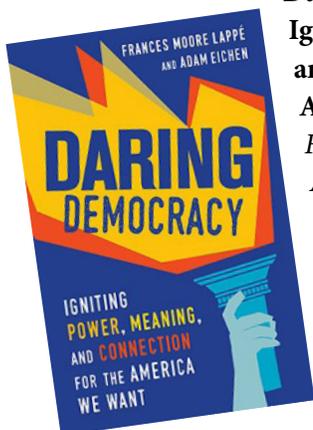
A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

The challenges, the call, and the opportunity of this moment in Unitarian Universalism and in the broader US American society are compelling. Unitarian Universalists must be prepared and willing to look inward, examining, exploring, and acting to dismantle white supremacy culture in our association, in our congregations and groups, and in ourselves. At the same time, we must be prepared and willing to look outward and act to lift up Unitarian Universalist values in the political and civic challenges of our time. After much deliberation, the Common Read Selection Committee has chosen two books for this year's Common Read:

Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry, edited by Mitra Sakuma, *(Skinner House, 2017)*, centers the stories, analysis, and insights of a number of Unitarian Universalist religious leaders of color as they explore how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in Unitarian Universalist communities.



Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want, by Frances Moore Lappé and Adam Eichen, *(Beacon Press, September 2017)* lifts up the importance of democracy itself. It examines the anti-democracy movement



that led to the Trump presidency, then offers a vision and call to action to save the democracy we thought we had and to take our civic life to a place it has never been.

Centering offers help with the inner work of today's Unitarian Universalism; *Daring Democracy* provides a vision and practical guidance for advancing our justice-making work in the public square. We invite you to make time to read both, and to work with others to organize discussion groups in your UU community.

Congregations, groups, and individuals may purchase both books from inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop. *Centering* is available now and *Daring Democracy* will be available in early September; bulk discounts are available. A discussion guide for each book will be available for download by October 13, 2017. Each guide will include plans for both a single session and three more in-depth sessions for Unitarian Universalist congregations, groups, and individuals. Make plans for in-person discussion groups and/or find a reading buddy and begin informal conversations.

LOVE *RESISTS*

The Love Resists Campaign is activating people of faith and conscience to resist the criminalization of our neighbors and communities, and create a safer, more just, welcoming, and sustainable world. The campaign offers a prophetic approach to responding to this political moment in the United States, helping to build the wider movement of resistance. That approach includes powerful principles to ground your justice work which, together, help us live up to who our values and principles call us to be - expand sanctuary, grow solidarity, raising your voice.

To get involved in this campaign sign the [Declaration of Conscience on the UU Love Resists Web page](#).

Once you sign the Declaration, you'll receive a monthly update with tools and opportunities to resist hate and fear in your community, and an invitation to each month's Conscience call. Raise your voice to advance UU values and principles today. www.uua.org/loveresists/declaration-conscience/

Before & After Worship

Programming in July & August

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in the future, please contact Linda M., Paul H., or Mark A.

July 2

- **Picnic in the Park** • 10:30 a.m.

July 9

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Poetry Group** • 12:00 noon

July 16

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Seniors' Group** • 12:00 noon

July 23

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.

July 30

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.



August 6

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share.
- **Youth Discussion** • 11:40, in the classroom

August 13

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Poetry Group** • 12:00 noon

August 20

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.
- **Seniors' Group** • 12:00 noon

August 27

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY POTLUCKS

Monthly potlucks are held on the **first Sunday**. Our **July 2nd** potluck will take place in Creston Park (see page 6). The **August 6th** potluck will be at the Senior Center, as usual. Bring a dish to share.



YOUTH DISCUSSION - On each potluck Sunday, the Religious Education committee invites any interested youth (grades 6-12) to get together after the worship and discuss that week's sermon. We'll get our lunch and then meet and eat in the classroom.

The **SENIORS' GROUP** at Wy'east is very much a going concern and meets after the service on the **third Sunday** of every month at the home of Barbara R., within walking distance of the Senior Center. Barbara always makes something good to eat, and others bring things to go with it. The monthly topic is engaging – be it past, present, or future. And the definition of senior is flexible – your choice.

The **WY'EAST POETRY GROUP** welcomes anyone who is interested in poetry, whether or not they are a member of the congregation, to meet with us at noon on the **second Sunday** of every month, noon till one. This is not a class nor is it a writing group. Anyone who comes is welcome to share in reading poems aloud – either poems which they wrote themselves or those of favorite authors. If you prefer, you can just sit and listen! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, you are welcome here.

July 2 INTERDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC

Join Wy'east UU members and friends in celebration of "Interdependence Day" at Creston Park, SE 43rd and Powell, in picnic area D by the parking lot. We are planning cooperative games for all ages from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. followed by a potluck picnic. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and flatware. Iced tea, lemonade, and water will be provided. Bring your musical instruments for a song fest after the picnic. **There will be no regular service at the Senior Center.**

Picnic: 10:30 a.m.

July 9 WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, ALFIE AND ANNIE AND ANGELO?

In this tumultuous time when at least half the world seems crazy, how can we not lose our own aspirations? What are the four most important values you personally need to protect to make life worthwhile, and what are they all about? Service led by retired Unitarian Universalist minister **Rev. Heather Lynn Hanson**, who comes to us recommended by other congregations in the area.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to Wy'camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

July 16 HOUSE KEYS, NOT HANDCUFFS

Monica Beemer, MSW, of the Western Regional Advocacy Project, will speak on fighting the criminalization of homelessness and poverty—for a better community and world—through organizing and solidarity.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to Wy'camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

July 23 DOULA WORK, DOULA LIFE

Service by **Kate Fricke**, a longtime friend of Wy'east, who says, "While growing my career as a doula, I discovered my purpose in life through the humility and power of birth."

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to Wy'camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

July 30 MUSICAL SERVICE

Wy'east member and professional musician, **Matt Lynch**, will host this service, in which he and other members will share music that is important to their physical, emotional, and spiritual lives. This will be inter-generational, all ages are welcome.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education: This is an intergenerational service. School age children are invited to stay and participate. Nursery care will be provided for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

August 6 **VULNERABILITY AND UU**

“Being authentic and vulnerable is one of the hardest things we can do, but it is essential to connection. And yet we as Unitarian Universalists often get stuck in our own heads at the expense of our hearts. Why are we like this? Is this necessarily a bad thing? Do we want to change, and if so, how? Let’s explore these questions together.” Service by UU ministerial student, **Derrick Mustelier**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

August 13 **BUILDING COMMUNITY**

How do you build a safe, healthy, respectful, vibrant, and inclusive community that brings prosperity to everyone?

Jenny Glass, Executive Director of the Rosewood Initiative will share with us how they are trying to do just that in their neighborhood.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

August 20 **THE G.A. EXPERIENCE**

What’s happening in the broader “UU Universe?” Hear from Wy’east member **Lana Aburto** about her experience participating online in the 2017 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

August 27 **THIS I BELIEVE**

Barbara Smith-Thomas, who’s been a Unitarian Universalist for 35 years and a member of Wy’east for nearly 14 of those says, “Some time ago my son-in-law commented that for an atheist, I sure spend a lot of time at church and doing church work. In this talk I will explore what keeps me coming back to church week after week, what keeps me showing up for committees and board work, and what moves me to open my wallet year after year.”

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to Wy’camp. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.