



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

March/April 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!*

WRITTEN OFFERINGS – from Rev. Craig Moro

Someone once asked, “If you were accused of the heresy called Unitarian Universalism, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” It’s a great question. Just imagine that you are hereby charged with promoting:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

What evidence would the agents of a fundamentalist/totalitarian state find in your date-book, your journal, or your financial records that you affirm these principles—body, heart, and soul?

(Continued on page 2)

SUNDAY SERMONS

3/5	Is There One Man in Hell?	Rev. Craig Moro
3/12	Got Privilege? Now What?	Chuck Smith
3/19	Cookie, Matzoh, Golem, Bench	Rev. Craig Moro
3/26	Hearing the Reed UUs' Hearts	Reed College UU group
4/2	Cartoon Wars	Rev. Craig Moro
4/9	Celebrating What Wy'east Has Become	Rev. Sarah Schurr
4/16	Loaves, Fishes, and Barabbas	Rev. Craig Moro
4/23	Housing Instability, Advocating for Change	Alison McIntosh
4/30	Justice Beyond Punishment and Toward Healing	Dr. Vivian Djokotoe

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

Written Offerings

(Continued from page 1) March and April mark the season for our religious community's annual stewardship campaign. Please take some time now to consider the "evidence" of your commitment to our principles—not how it might look to the agents of an authoritarian government, but to the those for whom they matter most. To you. To your neighbors. To the wide world around you.

Look out of your window. Look in the mirror. And remember that your pledge supports not only Wy'east UU Congregation, but also the values and principles that we share—the best ones that I know of, for healing a troubled world! I hope that each of us will do all that we can to affirm and promote them everywhere.

In faith and fellowship,

Craig Moro

[Rev. Moro can be reached by email, cmoro@willamette.edu or by phone at 503-851-4757, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Email is usually best.]

Wy'east Small Groups

As part of the congregational growth under our minister Craig Moro, the Committee On Ministry is planning some new, small "interest" groups. Currently we offer a Seniors Group and a Poetry Group, with an Adult Religious Education class being planned for the Fall. Small groups provide opportunities for us to gather and "become our deepest and truest selves together." As Wy'east grows in size and strength, we want to nourish the interpersonal ties that keep us rooted in spiritual community and lift us up.

We're working with a request we've received for Wy'easters to make and share music together. (Stay tuned for news of this exciting possibility.) There is also the direction of our always having at least one Lifespan Adult Religious Education class to offer. (We have two UUA provided curriculums ready to launch, and we hope you would join us for these.) A third route could be to not overwhelm ourselves with too many choices and commitments for now.

If you would like to give us some feedback, or have ideas about topics or potential leaders for Adult RE, please connect with a member of our Committee on Ministry: Lana A., Karl A., Marcy S., and Rev. Craig Moro.

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 **March 14** and **April 11**, 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 should be sure to let a board member know so that we can make sure someone monitors the door to let you in.

Special Collections for March and April

March: ROSE CDC



from their website: ROSE

Community Development

is dedicated to **Revitalizing Outer SouthEast** Portland neighborhoods, through the development of good homes & economic opportunities. We are rooted in the belief that affordable housing gives people the opportunity to build better lives. But since our first project – rehabilitating a single house in Lents for a low-income family in 1992 – our work to revitalize our community has extended far beyond housing. We are improving economic conditions in our neighborhoods and giving people the tools and the support they need to improve their lives. At ROSE, we believe everyone has a right to affordable housing. For renters, that means being able to afford the monthly rent and still have money left for groceries, transportation, utilities and life's other necessities – as well as some money to stock away for a rainy day. Sadly, affordable housing is just a dream for many Americans. One in eight American families pays more than half their household income for housing, or lives in housing that's considered rundown or substandard. ROSE offers well-constructed, well-managed rental units at rents that fit within a family's budget. These include units in large apartment buildings; units in duplexes, triplexes and multiplexes; and single-family homes. Some of our units are specially designed with families in mind. <http://rosecdc.org>

April: OUTSIDE THE FRAME



from their website:

Changing the way homeless and marginalized youth see and are seen

through film. Outside the Frame was founded with the idea of helping youth value themselves as productive members of society. We partner with excellent social service organizations to provide a much-needed creative outlet, technological training, and a sense of success that is contagious and visible to the public. We believe that to thrive, young people need more than their basic needs met. We offer a model educational and vocational program, where young people create films about issues that matter to them and share them with the public. Program graduates have gone on to complete their GED, enroll in college, actively pursue employment and independent living, and make movies. Our strategies include: **Project based film and media education:** Participants learn film making

from pre-production to broadcast with mentorship of professional filmmakers. **A participant driven creative outlet:** The films depict issues that pertain to and are determined by the participants. **An audience:** Hearing what young people have to say for themselves through screenings and presentations increases sensitivity and reduces stigma. **Employable skills:** Technology training and job readiness experience that is competitive, relevant, creative and not typically available. **Therapeutic intervention:** Our workshops offer a space for participants to reflect on, make sense of and share their stories. **Advocacy:** The films align with local organizing efforts that confront systemic issues the participants face. <http://otfpdx.org>

Wy'east is Turning 20!

Twenty years ago this April, the Charter Members of Wy'east signed the membership book. On Sunday, **April 9**, we will mark the occasion during and after our Sunday service. We will be celebrating what we have become. It's a party, and it's a reflection on where we have been and where we are going. Between now and then we are reconstructing a history of Wy'east, starting with the first organizational meetings in 1996. Bring your memories to our services in February and March to write on the time line. Bring any photographs or documents you would like to share – a newsletter from 1997 anyone? Please write your name on anything you want back. We'll do our best to return them to you. If you are still in contact with any former members of Wy'east, especially any charter members, please offer them a personal invitation to come celebrate with us on April 9. We'd like as many of our old friends as possible to be with us that day.



See you there!

April 1st Service Opportunity

The Senior Group has been discussing ways for all generations of our church community to get to know each other better. With that in mind, we have signed up to volunteer as a group at the **Oregon Food Bank** on Saturday morning from 9-11:30 on April 1, 2017. We have reserved a spot for 15 people. The minimum age for volunteering is six. More details will be sent out later. Save the date and please join us!

Protecting the Water that Protects Us

by Jon B.

In Nov. and Dec. 2016, the people of Wy'east raised \$825 to support the Bismarck-Mandan UU congregation. That congregation acts as a waystation for visitors of all faiths to the Water Protector camps near the Standing Rock Reservation. Altogether, they raised over \$20k to bring their activist minister, Karen Van Fossen, up to full time.

The Water Protector camps on the Cannonball River held space for eight months. I am told the camp grew to 10,000 people. Maybe another 10,000 have passed through, so far.

Investors have been forced to pause and consider – not just the water, but also the people who care enough to protect it. By their testimony, it costs them \$20 million a week while they consider.

In a sense, our relationship with the water is reciprocal. The water we help protect also helps protect us from Climate Change.

You probably heard that President Trump signed executive orders authorizing the government to proceed with the Dakota Access Pipeline. This is sad. But the Standing Rock folks have not gone away. We will see what actually happens.

Our work to date is not wasted. Both the Keystone and Standing Rock efforts “to protect the water,” fueled the growth of a powerful new wave of environmentalism. It did not begin with Trump’s election.

Larry Burt characterized the Stand at Standing Rock as a Selma Moment for Indians. It is true. The dignity and power of Sacred Stone Camp will be passed down in stories from here on. Our nation is learning that Indians can no longer be ignored, our current President notwithstanding. An alliance between Indians and environmentalists has been forged. The ripples of the ceremonies in the camps along the Cannonball River will empower indigenous peoples around the world.

This extraordinary outcome is what I call a Collective Handprint. No one person – no one group – could have arranged this transformative moment. Wy'east, in its modest way, contributed a piece of that outcome.

The Lakota name for the Cannonball River is *Ínyanjwakaǵapi Wakpá*. Translation:

River that Makes Sacred Stones.

Is that not a beautiful way to think about what we are doing?

Wy'east Village Support Network Team update

Our VSN family this year is “Meredith” and her two daughters “Nancy” and “Valerie.” Nancy, age four, is inquisitive and likes to “write” and draw. Valerie at age three works hard to keep up with her big sister. Her favorite color is green. Both girls are affectionate and a delight to be around! We have been working with Meredith since September, encouraging her to set goals and then providing help when needed to accomplish them. A few of the many tasks she has completed include: running around to many state offices to fill out paperwork, taking multiple classes to be certified as a day care provider, filing paperwork for child support, studying for and earning her Oregon driver’s license, registering her van in Oregon and getting her Oregon automobile plates. Most recently, her brakes needed work so we found a good mechanic to do the repairs. She also keeps her girls safe and happy.

Meredith and her girls are staying at a Human Solutions Shelter in East Portland. This is the same one where Wy'east serves dinner once a month. Meredith hopes to be able to move to an apartment in the near future. She just started working for a home health organization, while her girls are attending Head Start and afternoon day care. We will soon have our official “good-bye” party with them.

This is our 4th year and 4th VSN family. Each family has had some very difficult situations to deal with and has shown tremendous personal strength and fortitude, working hard to change their circumstances. We always feel privileged to be part of this process.

Thank you for your financial and emotional support for the VSN program. We could never do this work without you. This year’s team members are Barbara R., Barbara D., Summer, Chad, Diane I., Larry, and Donna.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is March 16th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book reviews, favorite spiritual practices to: weast-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://weastuu.org/newsletter/>.

Before & After Worship

Programming in March & April

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

March 5

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

March 12

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

March 19

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

March 26

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.



April 2

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

April 9

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

April 16

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

April 23

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.

April 30

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY POTLUCKS

Our potlucks are now held on the **first Sunday** — that's **March 5th** and **April 2nd**. 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.

SAVE THE DATES

May 7: Discussion of 2017-2018 budget, noon

May 21: Wy'east's Annual Meeting to approve the budget and elect a new Board, noon

There will be more information in the next newsletter. For now, mark your calendars and plan to honor our Fifth Principle: Use of the Democratic Process within our Congregations and in Society at Large.

March 5 IS THERE ONE MAN IN HELL?

Here's how Ambrose Bierce defined *Universalist* in his famous Devil's Dictionary: "*Universalist*, noun. One who forgoes the advantage of a hell for persons of another faith." But aren't there some advantages in having a hell to hold the worst people, if not for punishment then maybe just for storage? Let's examine this question in the light of our second principle, which affirms and promotes "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.

March 12 GOT PRIVILEGE? NOW WHAT?

What do you do when you discover that you have privilege? Explore your options and guidance from the Unitarian Universalist principles with **Chuck Smith**, the Program Director at the Black Parent Initiative and member of the UU Congregation at Willamette Falls, as he reflects on his experience of recently discovering a moment of privilege as a Black male in America.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.

March 19 COOKIE, MATZOH, GOLEM, BENCH

A meditation on the life in seemingly "lifeless" things and the secret ingredient in any stewardship campaign. Hint: it's not just money. Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.

March 26 HEARING THE REED UUs' HEARTS

Every year at spring time, the **Reed College UU group** creates a service for us at Wy'east, and it is always just that – a creation. Whether personal, political, written, or performed, what's striking is the depth. This year promises nothing less. Come listen to the authenticity.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.

April 2 **CARTOON WARS**

From the Danish newspaper cartoons to the shootings at the *Charlie Hebdo* offices in France, publishing images of the Prophet Muhammad has led to some tragic consequences. Have we invested in learning from these events or squandered the opportunity? Join me this morning to hear how *listening to a story* can be a real step towards peace. Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.

April 9 **CELEBRATING WHAT WY'EAST HAS BECOME**

Our annual recognition of **Wy'east Charter Sunday** takes on special meaning this year, looking back at twenty years as a congregation. Where do we come from, what are we, where are we going? **Rev. Sarah Schurr**, one of our charter members and an original congregation organizer, will guide our exploration of these questions.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.

April 16 **LOAVES, FISHES, AND BARABBAS**

The Gospel of Matthew carries us from one crowd scene to the next. First, Jesus and his disciples feed 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. In the final scene, a crowd is asked to choose only one of three prisoners to save from public execution. Were some folks from the first crowd also in the last? Why should it matter to us? Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.

April 23 **HOUSING INSTABILITY, ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE**

Alison McIntosh, the Deputy Director for Policy & Communications at Neighborhood Partnerships, leads the work of the Oregon Housing Alliance, a statewide coalition focused on making a difference with the state legislature. She'll share updates about what's happening in Salem this session, as well as how citizens can create change through advocacy and how, together, we can solve these housing problems.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.

April 30 **JUSTICE BEYOND PUNISHMENT AND TOWARD HEALING**

This country is made up of 5% of the world's population but consistently accounts for 25% of the world's prison population. Discussions around criminal justice reform and resolving the incarceration epidemic have begun. What can be learned from our past? Is it time to look back for more effective methods and ideas to address crime? In this talk, **Dr. Vivian Djokotoe**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, Western Oregon University, will speak on some responses worth considering.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K – 12th 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.