



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

March/April 2016

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*Wy'east meets at the
Hollywood Senior Center
(HSC) at 1820 NE 40th,
Portland, Oregon.*

*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

Hello! This is my first column for the Wy'east Beacon. All of my colleagues write one like it, each with a different heading. One friend writes "Reverential Ramblings," another writes "Ministerial Musings," while someone whom I've known since seminary days writes "Weavings from the Web." I call my column "Written Offerings." It's not just a casual name.

One scholar of religious history whose work I admire begins each academic term by asking her students, "What are the major differences between ancient and modern religions?" They respond by spinning out differences in beliefs, numbers of gods, etc.—until she cuts them short. The biggest difference, she says, is that most ancient religions emphasized sacrificial activity over beliefs; real tangible offerings over discourse or ideas. I think she's right, but I'm not sure that there's ever really been a break from the ancient ways. The form changes, but the essentials remain.

I've got a feeling that religious life still takes shape through specific acts of offering. Offerings are always a risk. Will mine be accepted, rejected, understood or mistaken? I can't control what happens after it is made. I can only prepare it to the best of my ability, and then put it forth. Much of what passes between us will be intangible, hard to define or describe, yet still of great value—at least I hope so. But much of what I hope to offer will also be in the form of words, spoken and written. Hence, "Written Offerings."

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Sunday Sermons

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3/13	Manipulating Time	Rev. Barbara Stevens
3/20	The Black Parent Initiative	Charles Mcgee and Chuck Smith
3/27	The Light Within	Rev. Mark Gallagher
4/3	This Thing All Things Devours	Reed College Unitarian Universalist Group
4/10	Getting Your Goat	Rev. Craig Moro
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4/24	The Five Questions of Ms. Thought	Rev. Craig Moro

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

Written Offerings

(Continued from page 1) Though my schedule will be a bit irregular in these first few months, I will usually be speaking at the 1st and 3rd Sunday service each month from September through next June. I look forward to meeting all of you soon, and discovering how we can put our offerings together in ways that are joyful, effective, and not just a little bit fun!

*In 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. most days except in an emergency.]

From the Board

In the next few weeks we will start our annual canvass to ask the congregation to pledge their financial contribution for the next fiscal year beginning July 1st. I will be sending out more detailed reports to the congregation, but the overall picture is that we hope to increase our pledge income significantly next year, mostly to cover the expected cost of having a half-time minister again for the full year, with an increased commitment to benefits. For a variety of reasons, pledges have dropped since last year, and we will be asking members to increase their pledges this year if it is possible to do so.

- \$74,000 – last year's pledge
- \$66,700 – last year's actual pledge income
- \$58,600 – this year's pledges (we are on track to meet this)
- \$78,500 – first cut estimate of next year's pledge requirements

Our membership has remained fairly steady over the last couple years at around 57 members, and 46 pledging units. Our initial goal for next year's pledges will be \$1377/ member, or \$1706/ pledging unit. This represents an increase over the current year of \$423/pledging unit.

You will be hearing more from me and the canvass committee in the next two months. We hope to finish the main part of the canvass in April so that we can refine the budget for next year. In addition, please note the following dates for congregational meetings:

- Sunday, May 15 – budget meeting
- Sunday, May 22 – annual meeting

D'On V., Wy'east Treasurer

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.

The Wy'east Board generally meets on the second Thursday of the Month. Our next two meetings are on March 10th and April 14th at 7 pm. Both meetings will be at a board member's home. If you are interested in attending a meeting, you can call the Wy'east office at (503)777-3704 and leave a message or send an email to wyeast-board@googlegroups.com. Someone will get back to you with the location. Or, you can ask any board member at a Sunday service.

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is April 14th. 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>

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!

Please let the Worship Associate know if you have something to be presented to the congregation – a brief announcement will be made at the beginning of the service.

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 Paul H., Paul S., Mark A., Amy O., or Larry B.

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

Special Collections for March and April

March: **BLACK PARENT INITIATIVE**



Our Mission: The Black Parent Initiative educates and mobilizes the parents and caregivers of Black and multi-ethnic children to ensure they achieve success. Our Vision: Families of Black and multi-ethnic children will break generational cycles, achieving financial, educational, health and spiritual success and well-being. Our Fundamental Belief: To positively influence our children's learning and success, we must instill a new ethic of self-reliance, empowerment, voice and determination within the culture of our families. With that we can and will make a difference in the lives of our children. Culturally Specific Core Values: Preserve and instill historical African and Black values that contribute to the well-being of parents and caregivers of Black and multi-ethnic children. Empowerment: Ethic of self-reliance, having a voice, and asserting self-determination. Family Health and Well-being: Achieving financial, educational, physical, emotional and spiritual health and well-being. Parent University: Home-based support for improved child reading and comprehension; home-based discipline; home-based and school advocacy; and cultivating parent advocates. Together We Can: Intensive home visiting, which is relationship-based, focused on safety, stability, and personal growth. Group services include personal growth, consciousness, and connection. www.thebpi.org

April: **THE CHILDREN'S BOOK BANK**

"A child from a low-income family enters first grade with an average of only 25 hours of one-to-one picture book reading, compared with 1,000 to 1,700 hours for a child from a typical middle-class home. In the Portland area, low-income households, where children often have less access to books and less early experience with letters, are disproportionately

comprised of communities of color or English language learning households. (Despite the fact that 37% of the U.S. population is comprised of people of color, only 10% of children's books published from 1994-2012 contain multicultural content.) In fact, nearly 75% of preschoolers that The Children's Book Bank serves each year come from



communities of color and/or English language learning. In low-income neighborhoods, the ratio of books to children is one book for every 300 children, far below the ratio of 13 books per child in middle-income neighborhoods. The Children's Book Bank closes this book gap by gathering tens of thousands of new and gently-used books from the community each year and engaging hundreds of volunteers to help clean, sort, and distribute the books to low-income children, free of charge. Since 2008, The Children's Book Bank has delivered over 510,000 books to over 41,000 local children in need, giving these at-risk kids tools to develop the language skills they need to become future readers, learners, and citizens." www.childrensbookbank.org

Social Justice Highlights

Wy'east as a congregation is active in several different aspects of social justice, but in this column our Social Justice Committee would like to highlight what's being done out in the community by some of our individual members on their own time. Each newsletter may include one or more write-ups, with a brief description of an organization that someone from Wy'east supports and how they are involved. If you want to know more about the organization, please contact the person that is highlighted.

Chom S. is on the multi-ethnic, multi-generational committee of Burmese, Cambodian, Lao, and Thai people working together to create a New Year celebration in April, based on its traditional time in Theravadda Buddhism. He is the committee facilitator and sponsorship chair of this volunteer-led organization. In 2015, the first New Year celebration here was held with 5,000+ attendees. Food vendors and performances insured that the younger generations would learn about and cherish their cultural heritage, as well as introduce others to these traditions. The 2016 New Year celebration will be held at Glen Haven Park on April 30th from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

Mathias Q. is currently volunteering with "Democracy Spring," a coalition of 80+ social justice, labor, environmental, and faith-based organizations. In his capacity as Regional Organizing Hub leader, he is helping to coordinate a march happening this April from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., followed by an historic mass civil disobedience at the Capitol, with the goal of pushing for legislative and constitutional reform to end big money corruption and restore voting rights and the principle of "one person, one vote" in American politics. To get involved, talk to Mathias and read more at DemocracySpring.org.

Getting Connected @ Wy'east

SPRING READING

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.

Unitarian Universalist Alliance of Camp & Conference Centers

Dear Fellow Unitarian Universalists,

Over the last few years, the UUACCC (UU Alliance of Camp and Conference Centers), has been working with Carey McDonald, the Outreach Director for the UUA, on how our UU Camps and Conference Centers can better communicate with our congregations so that UU's throughout the world can become more aware of the opportunities for fellowship beyond the walls of the congregation.

One of the surprising things we have learned is that many UU's are not even aware that we have camps and conference centers and how much they mean in the lives of UU's who do know. We are hoping you can help us take a small first step in changing that.

We would very much appreciate it if you could do whatever you can to share this article in your congregation's newsletter, email blasts, or other forms of communication.

In Fellowship,

Dan Gottfried
UUACCC Executive Director, Unirondack

The Lily in the Window

By Thomas Rhodes

Once upon a time there was an old man who lived alone with his grandson in a dirty hovel. Everything around them was filthy (you can imagine!) One day a stranger appeared and gave the young child a beautiful lily. The boy took it home and placed it on a windowsill in his house. The grandfather saw the flower and put it in a jar of water. His grandson realized how dirty the window was in contrast to the lily and cleaned it. The grandfather then replaced the jar with a vase, and swept the floor. Over time the boy and grandfather clean up their home, even planting flowers out front. Neighbors stop by to admire them, and they become integrated into the community.

Eventually the original lily dies, but by this time the house is clean and orderly, the boy has friends, and the grandfather is calling on a lady neighbor.

(In Christian traditions, the flower represents Jesus. The resurrection, of course, isn't one of the flower itself, but of the man and boy who found new life.)



Like the First Hint of Green

By Jennifer McGlothlin

As the first hint of green begins to peak through the
barren ground

As that little sprig grows into a healthy stem

As that stem grows into a stalk and forms a bud

As that bud slowly opens with each new day

To form a yellow daffodil

Let us be, like that first hint of green, renewed by the
warm of the sun's rays

And ready to emerge with a new energy,
ready to face the day.

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in March & April

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in the future, please contact Amy O., Larry B., Paul H., Paul S., or Mark A.

March 6

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

March 13

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

March 20

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Seniors Group** • 12:00 noon

March 27

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Wy'east Poetry Group** • 12:00 noon

We have a little basket to collect money for the weekly Social Hour snacks. The plan is to have the basket out on the snack table every week except for potluck Sundays. If you have questions, please talk to Debra T. or Linda B.

April 3

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

April 10

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

April 17

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Seniors Group** • 12:00 noon

April 24

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Wy'east Poetry Group** • 12:00 noon

Sunday Potlucks

Our potlucks will be held on **March 13th** and **April 10th**. Bring a dish to share.



POETRY GROUP FOR MARCH & APRIL

The poetry group will meet on its regularly scheduled **fourth Sunday** in March and April. Anyone who enjoys either writing or reading poetry is welcome. Just bring six copies of your own work or six copies of a published poet you'd like to discuss among poetry lovers who seek to explore, discover, and understand truths others bring to the surface of the page. **All are welcome!** Contact Lynn T. if you have questions.

SENIORS GROUP

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., close by 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.

Heads-up about the upcoming 2nd annual Pasta and Song Event:

It will be held at the Hollywood Senior Center on Saturday, May 14th from 5-8 or so.

We are looking for someone to lead the singing. Please contact Diane I. at 503-280-0639 if you are willing or know someone who might be willing to do this.

Last year's event was a very fun, happy evening.

March 6 THE ONLY THING I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT THERE'S NOTHING I KNOW FOR SURE

Feeling most comfortable with uncertainty, Wy'east congregant **Paul Strohmayer** will share some of the insights he's gained by simple observation of his own philosophical evolution, human behavior, recurring patterns throughout the universe, and the relationship of it all.

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.

March 13 MANIPULATING TIME

Sermon by **Rev. Barbara Stevens**. This Sunday we change from regular time to daylight savings time, losing an hour in the process. What is time? Is it relative? And if we all have the same amount of time, how can we learn to use it effectively rather than being used by it?

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.

March 20 THE BLACK PARENT INITIATIVE

The Black Parent Initiative was established in Portland in 2006, based on a large body of research that demonstrates the importance of parental and family engagement in attaining educational success for children. BPI co-founder **Charles McGee** and **Chuck Smith** will speak on their work.

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.

March 27 THE LIGHT WITHIN

Sermon by **Rev. Mark Gallagher**. Sometimes it is through suffering loss that we learn to go deeper and discover tremendous possibilities.

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.

April 3 THIS THING ALL THINGS DEVOURS

We are all familiar with the passage of time; at moments it moves too slowly and at others too fast. Sometimes we lose time, and sometimes we find it. Join the **Reed College Unitarian Universalist group** in an exploration of time and the changes it has wrought.

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.

April 10 GETTING YOUR GOAT

Folktales, like religious scriptures, have a bottomless quality. There's no end to the meanings we can discover, if we keep looking. This morning, let's cross a river with The Three Billy Goats Gruff and see what we can find on the surface, below the bridge, and over on the other side. This story is definitely not just for children! Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

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.

April 17 GIVING BACK

Emily Goetz is the managing director of a communications agency unique in that it works solely for causes. Emily will share about her own path toward defining a life and work that supports positive change and community, plus ideas on how others can explore what community means to them, including what the positive change is they can contribute.

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.

April 24 THE FIVE QUESTIONS OF MS. THOUGHT

Years ago, in Thailand, a dear friend shared these questions with me. She told me that if I tried to answer them honestly and carefully, I might come to know myself better than before. Come this morning, and I'll share them with you. Bring your friends along! Sermon by **Rev. Craig Moro**.

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.