



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

November/December 2012

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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...

I wanted to share with you all some changes that I'm excited about, and I hope you will be too. First of all, I'm happy to be renting office space from Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, just up Sandy at 45th. This is actually costing Wy'east less than our old office space was, and gives us not only a place where I can meet with congregants or visitors, but also gives us the option of using their space for evening meetings or classes. Beginning in January, I plan to offer an evening class on some aspect of spiritual deepening. I haven't finalized plans yet. Perhaps we'll offer a Building Your Own Theology class, or maybe something more like Evensong--which is a covenant group-style opportunity to share deeply and reflect within a small group. If an opportunity for spiritual deepening is something that appeals to you, I hope you'll share with me what type of experience you'd most prefer, as well as time limitations you might have.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

11/4	Naming the Goodness and Tracing Its Source	Rev. Erika Hewitt
11/11	Where Have All the Soldiers Gone?	Rev. Marcia Stanard
11/18	Breaking Bread	Wy'east
11/25	The Crippling Impact of Positive Thinking	Rev. Rick Davis
12/2	Inspirations from the Earth	Wy'east Environmental Circle
12/9	Searching Responsibly	Rev. Marcia Stanard
12/16	Celebration of Light	Wy'east children
12/23	Winter Holiday Brunch and Readings	Wy'east
12/24	Christmas Eve Service 5 pm	Rev. Marcia Stanard
12/30	New Year Hymn Sing	Wy'east

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

From the Minister *(Continued)*

I also hope that folks will take the opportunity to meet with me, whether at Rose City Park, or in your home, or a coffee shop. Pastoral care is one of my favorite parts of ministry--but it's not just for me--and it's not just when you have a problem. I'm hoping to learn more about each of you--whether you're a member or a new visitor. I'd like to learn what you're looking for in a spiritual community. Having that connection with your minister is a way of deepening your connection to Wy'east. It gives us a foundation to work from when and if it turns out you actually have a situation where you need or desire pastoral care. Over the next several months, it's my goal to have a conversation with each of you--outside of Wy'east. Tell me about yourselves. What are your hopes and dreams, both for Wy'east, and for your own lives? What issues do you struggle with? How can we deepen your connections, both here and in the world?

My sermons, and thus our Sunday services, are often informed by what is happening with members of the congregation. I never violate your privacy--if I tell a story about someone, I've always asked permission. But it's helpful to me to know, for example, that some people are struggling with depression, or experiencing grief. Sunday morning is the time I have to share with the entire community, but that communication is best when it's informed by our deeper relationships. Let's talk!

Warmly,
Marcia

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the January/February issue submissions is Thursday, December 20th. Please put this date on your calendar, and 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>.

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., Randy D. 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.

Wy'east Special Collections

In choosing to whom to donate the next Special Collections during our focus this year on the issue of race, one thought has been, "Where could the \$200+ we collect each time make the biggest impact?" And that idea has led us in the direction of donating to a couple of small programs where our dollars will matter the most.



The first, in **November**, will be to a young organization in Oregon, the **Micronesian Islander Community**, which we were put in touch with through Chom of this

congregation, and APANO, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. Cris Ogo from MIC will be with us at Wy'east on November 18th.

The second, in **December**, will be going to the work of a **Native American Planned Parenthood outreach** worker to the Native American community here in Portland. That worker, Roberta Eaglehorse, who we met at an Indigenous Peoples Day event at the Native American Student and Community Center at PSU, will be with us at Wy'east on December 16th.



Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice

The mission of the Oregon UU Voices for Justice, a statewide liberal religious legislative advocacy network, is to educate, organize and advocate for public policies which uphold the worth and dignity of each person, further justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, ensure the use of the democratic process, protect religious freedom, and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

Saturday, November 10th, the Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice will have its 3rd annual Statewide Meeting at the UU Congregation of Salem. For more info and to register, visit www.uuvoicesoregon.org.

RE Update

A new church year is well on its way - meaning a new year in religious education! In the last newsletter, Marcia told you about this year's changes to the RE program but here's a recap:

- Marcia is writing an original curriculum outline just for us! It's story-based and revolves around one of the seven principles each month-ish.
- The older kids are now at Wee Works too!
- More hands-on activities, including activities from the "science experiment" and "shop lite" genres.
- Ashley and Anders are now the older kids' teachers!

We are super excited about this year. Here's some of the fun stuff the kids have done already:

- Extracted DNA from saliva and vegetables!
- Learned that scientists have found that the genetic differences between the races are at most minimal.
- Put on a play for the adults about treating everyone with compassion!
- The younger kids read a book by President Obama about Americans of all types who contributed greatly to this country.
- The older kids created a collage of faces found in magazines and discussed who is represented often in media and who isn't.

Amy E.'s adorable twin girls moved up from the younger kids' class to the 4th-grade-and-up class. They are already among the class's most enthusiastic contributors. Give them your best wishes when you see them!

~Alex R.

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 (David Tode O., Nancy D., Dan E., Kate M., and Robyn K.) on Sundays at church.

Show Walmart Workers Some Love

The poet Langston Hughes wrote, "I dream a world where all will know sweet freedom's way, where greed no longer saps the soul, nor avarice blights our day." Across the country, Walmart store and warehouse workers are risking all they have to make that dream a reality. Just this month, Walmart workers walked off the job in 12 different states to protest Walmart's poor wages and working conditions.

Now, **Standing on the Side of Love** and **Interfaith Worker Justice** are coming together to support Walmart workers on Black Friday, November 23, 2012.

I have had the honor to meet some of these brave workers. Sebastian* gathers carts in the parking lot of a California Walmart store. He loves his job and his co-workers, but he doesn't love the pay or treatment by managers. He can't get enough hours to be eligible for health care benefits, so he has none. He makes just a bit above minimum wage and keeps hoping for a raise, but hasn't gotten one in two years. The managers ignore him and treat him like he is disposable. Sebastian is smart and committed to the company. He deserves a voice. He deserves respect.

The average Walmart Associate makes just \$8.81 per hour and many, like Sebastian, have no benefits because they aren't allowed to work the minimum number of hours to receive health care coverage. As one of the largest employers of immigrants and people of color in the United States, Walmart's policies have a direct impact on some of the most marginalized members of our communities.

Walmart can afford to do better. Last year, the company made \$10 billion in profits. In 2010, the net worth of six members of the Walton family exceeded the combined wealth of the bottom 42% of American families. Walmart claims it is doing its share to help poor people by keeping prices low. Phewy! Walmart could still have low prices and pay its workers living wages and benefits.

This year on Black Friday—Walmart's number one profit day, we're going to show Walmart workers some love. Please join me and other worker advocates and people of faith in showing support for Walmart workers. Some of us will be doing prayer vigils and delivering letters to managers. Others will be holding flash mobs inside the store. Together, we will raise our voices with those of workers across the country to call for increased wages, better working conditions, and more respect for Walmart workers.

Please join me in standing on the side of love with Walmart workers. Go to <http://www.iwj.org/take-action/jubilee-take-action> to find an action at a Walmart store near you.

In justice,

Kim Bobo
Executive Director, Interfaith Worker Justice
kimbobo@iwj.org

**name changed for his protection*

*The message above went out on Thursday, October 18, 2012 to **Standing on the Side of Love** supporters. You can sign-up for these emails at <http://www.ittybittyurl.com/gcp>.*

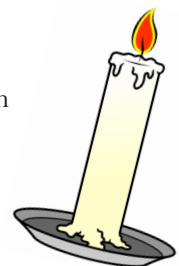


Celebration of Light!

Wy'east's annual winter pageant of holidays from religious traditions around the world will be taking place during worship on December 16. The children will act out scenes in stories from Native American, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Thai, Chinese and American traditions.

Rehearsal for the celebration of light will be after worship on December 9, at about Noon. Food will be provided - please tell Anders about any dietary restrictions so we can provide food that everyone can eat. Rehearsal may take up to 2 hours. Any adults interested in helping with the celebration are welcome to assist - we welcome anyone to help direct some of the holidays.

We will be displacing the potluck - people are welcome to stay and watch the rehearsal, but we will be reciting lines and processing back and forth throughout the senior center, trying to hear cues from across the room.



Rehearsal: December 9, 12 Noon

Celebration of Light: December 16, 10:30 am

BEFORE & AFTER Worship

Programming in November & December

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

November 4

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

November 11

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

November 18

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

November 25

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



December 2

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

December 9

- **Celebration of Light rehearsal** • 12:00 noon
- **No potluck***

December 16

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

December 23

- **Winter Holiday Brunch** • 10:30 am. Bring a dish to share.

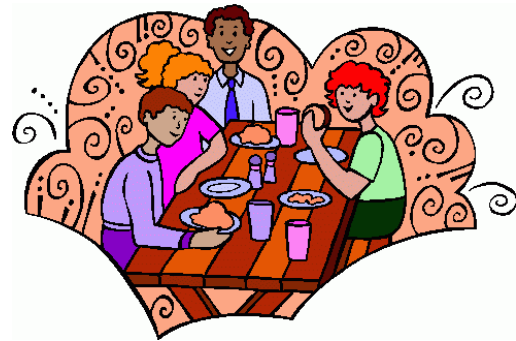
December 30

- **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, **November 11th** and **December 16th** at 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.



Restaurant Adventure

After our service on the **last 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.

November 4 NAMING THE GOODNESS AND TRACING ITS SOURCE

Where does the good stuff in life come from? The way we explain goodness reveals much about our religious assumptions. There's no such thing as being TOO grateful, so join us for a reflection on the theology of thankfulness. Service by **Rev. Erika Hewitt**, the author of *Story, Song and Spirit: Fun and Creative Worship Services for All Ages*, and an upcoming book from Skinner House about small group ministries.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

Religious Education classes will be discussing and doing activities centered around our second UU principle, "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Our third principle:

Acceptance of one another
and *encouragement*
to spiritual growth in our
congregations.

November 11 WHERE HAVE ALL THE SOLDIERS GONE?

More army soldiers died of suicide than in combat last year. Rates of suicide among veterans, especially of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, is at crisis proportions. This Veteran's Day, we'll examine the issue and see what we can do about it. 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.

Religious Education classes will be discussing and doing activities centered around our second UU principle, "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

November 18 BREAKING BREAD

Each autumn, we pause to give thanks for the food we gather from the earth. In this service, we'll hear stories from four of our members about a loaf of bread that each of them has baked, how the bread connects to their personal history, and the meaning it holds for them. Then, during social hour, they'll share these loaves with all of us.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

Religious Education classes will be discussing and doing activities centered around our second UU principle, "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

November 25 THE CRIPPLING IMPACT OF POSITIVE THINKING

Life is full of paradox and counterintuitive dynamics. Conventional wisdom often leads us to think, feel and say things that have unintended consequences. Let's explore this. Service by **Rev. Rick Davis**, Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem. This service is part of a pulpit exchange, where Rev. Marcia is preaching in Salem today.

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.

December

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

December 2 **INSPIRATIONS FROM THE EARTH**

The UUA's 7th Principle tells us to respect the "interdependent web of life" which we all depend upon. In our daily lives, it is often difficult to remember that we are part of nature and depend on nature. Today the **Wy'east Environmental Circle** will present what inspires them to work for a more sustainable society that lives with nature and not in conflict with 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.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

December 9 **SEARCHING RESPONSIBLY**

Our fourth principle is "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning" What does it mean to search responsibly? 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.

Celebration of Light Rehearsal: Noon. **No Potluck Brunch**

Our fourth principle:
A free and responsible
search for *truth* and
meaning

December 16 **CELEBRATION OF LIGHT**

Our children will once again be presenting the Winter pageant, which features them in adorable costumes acting out the stories behind the solstice holidays of eight different religious traditions. This Wy'east creation celebrates how we all find meaning in the darkness of winter, no matter which stories are told, and which holidays we observe.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

December 23 **WINTER HOLIDAY BRUNCH AND READINGS** 10:30 am

On this Sunday, two days before Christmas, those of us who'd like to be together, will gather at the Senior Center for an informal brunch to share readings that matter to us about this time of year in our lives. Bring what moves you, and memories, and meanings. And, of course, yummy food.

December 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** 5 pm

A traditional service of carols, stories, and the traditional candle-lit singing of Silent Night. Come join your Wy'east community as we celebrate the holiday season. Service by our minister, **Rev. Marcia Stanard**.

December 30 **NEW YEAR HYMN SING**

At this winter time awaiting the New Year, there is nothing so warm and cozy as a service where we sing hymns together, particularly those that bring us joy and hope for the days ahead. We will have some hymns picked out ourselves for sure, but you might also come with some favorites and requests.

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.