

# 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

November/December 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

Our autumn holidays touch us in ways that are spiritually deep, but have few sectarian overtones. They transcend the boundaries of any single religious tradition and invite us to some delightful feasts that are open to all. Halloween, the Day of the Dead, and All Souls' (or All Saints') Day run from October 31 to November 2. The festivities are all so familiar that we hardly notice how strange it is that they are also very child-friendly.

Skulls and bones, headstones and...*laughing children*? Beyond all the cheap plastic junk, behind all the commercialism, here is something quite profound. We bring together two sides of human experience that we usually try to keep as far apart as possible: childhood and death. During these holidays, symbols of death become symbols of welcome. Trick or treat, what's to eat? It's bats and worms and sugar skulls! And all this makes for a wholesome banquet. Wholesome, not because of the sugar, but because it embraces the whole of life, from childhood to the grave—and beyond.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## SUNDAY SERMONS

11/5	<b>Build a Good Front Porch</b>	Rev. Craig Moro
11/12	<b>Raising the Voices of Dismissed Women</b>	Julia Yoshimoto
11/19	<b>The Grammar of Faith</b>	Rev. Craig Moro
11/26	<b>Breaking Bread</b>	Anders Liljeholm
12/3	<b>Gather, Count, Sort and Measure</b>	Rev. Craig Moro
12/10	<b>Celebration of Light</b>	Wy'east Children
12/17	<b>Ugly Face</b>	Rev. Craig Moro
12/24	<b>Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Intergenerational Service</b>	Linda and Bruce Macpherson
12/31	<b>New Year Hymn Sing</b>	Debra Tomsen

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

## Written Offerings

*(Continued from page 1)* Thanksgiving celebrates the harvest, yes, but it also celebrates the attitude of gratitude itself. This holiday serves up food along with gratitude and reminds us how we need both to be truly, fully alive. Thanks-giving and gratitude are our ways of touching life as a whole (much as vision is our way of touching light) and of knowing that it touches us. That's why we call it a 'sense'. When we lose our sense of gratitude, we run the risk of losing touch with life itself. Gratitude restores us to the wonder of being just where we are—to see what a gift this is... Which prepares us for the gifts of the winter holidays and the New Year that's ahead. Stay warm, and well. Stay grateful for the gifts within and for all the gifts around you. And stay safe in this time of dark nights and slippery streets.

In faith and fellowship,

*Craig Moro*

*[Rev. Moro can be reached any time by email, [minster@weeastuu.org](mailto:minster@weeastuu.org) or by phone at 503-851-4757, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Note: E-mail is always the best way to get in touch!]*

## Contacting RE & the Board of Trustees

Contact the Religious Education Committee chair if you have questions about our children's programming at Wy'east: [weeast-re@googlegroups.com](mailto:weeast-re@googlegroups.com).

If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to [weeast-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:weeast-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 **November 14th** and **December 12th**, 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.

## Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions to the next issue will be early—December 14th—so the team can get the newsletter completed before the holidays. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, book reviews, favorite spiritual practices to: [wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com](mailto:wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com). If you have any questions, 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://weeastuu.org/newsletter/>.

## UUA Disaster Relief Fund

Our UU friends and neighbors in California, Florida and the Caribbean—including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands—have experienced extraordinary devastation following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, as well as the fires in California.

We invite you to contribute to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund (formerly the Hurricane Irma Recovery Fund) so the UUA can provide financial assistance to UU congregations impacted by these and other natural disasters. In addition to facilitating their own disaster recovery, congregations receiving disaster relief funds will have discretion to provide financial assistance to their members, as well as to support local partner organizations serving the community at large. The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) may apply on behalf of CLF members living in disaster areas.

Puerto Rico's situation is especially severe. To contribute aid beyond the Unitarian Universalist sphere, there are many organizations on the ground doing important work, such as the Hurricane Maria Community Relief & Recovery Fund and United for Puerto Rico, a collaboration between the Government of Puerto Rico and the private sector; or consider supporting the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands Relief Fund.

We know that long after the initial clean-up, real recovery can take months or years. Your donations will allow the UUA to respond flexibly to this tragedy and to new situations as they arise.

### Donate to the Disaster Relief Fund

To donate by mail, please make check payable to the UUA with "Disaster Relief Fund" on the memo line, and send to UUA Gift Processing, 24 Farnsworth St, Boston, MA 02210.

## Special Collections for November & December

### November: PDXWIT (Portland Women in Technology)

PDXWIT is a volunteer run organization whose mission is to build and strengthen the community of women in technology fields by offering educational programs, mentorships, resources, and opportunities. PDXWIT provides a unifying and supportive environment for women currently working in the field, as well as for those who may pursue a technology career in the future, and who are committed to helping one another. Through this work, the organization hopes to reduce the gender imbalance in the tech industry and address the negative impacts of that imbalance on women in the field. Mentorships with PDXWIT provide women in technology with opportunities for professional development through community partnerships. Mentors serve as role models, sources of support, and help with problem solving. Participants are given the opportunity to ask questions, seek advice, and receive feedback to reach personal objectives. <http://www.pdxwit.org>



### December: GIRLS INC.



Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. We make an impact in the communities we serve by equipping girls with the skills and confidence to access a bright and economically-independent future. By focusing on the whole girl from ages 6-18, we provide life-changing after school programs and experiences that help girls grow up to be healthy, educated, and independent. Our trained volunteer leaders, research-based curricula, and pro-girl environment provide girls with the tools, confidence, and support to realize their own power. Girls Inc. develops research-based, informal education programs that encourage girls to take risks and master physical, intellectual, and emotional challenges. Major programs address math and science education, pregnancy and drug abuse prevention, media literacy, economic literacy, adolescent health, violence prevention, and sports participation.

<http://www.girlsincpnw.org>

## The Moment of Magic

Now is the moment of magic,

when the whole, round earth turns again toward the sun,

and here's a blessing:

the days will be longer and brighter now,  
even before the winter settles in to chill us.

Now is the moment of magic,

when people beaten down and broken,  
with nothing left but misery and candles and their own clear voices,

kindle tiny lights and whisper secret music,

and here's a blessing:

the dark universe is suddenly illuminated by the lights of the menorah,

suddenly ablaze with the lights of the kinara,  
and the whole world is glad and loud with winter singing.

Now is the moment of magic,

when an eastern star beckons the ignorant toward an unknown goal,

and here's a blessing:

they find nothing in the end but an ordinary baby,  
born at midnight, born in poverty, and the baby's cry,  
like bells ringing,

makes people wonder as they wander through their lives,

what human love might really look like,  
sound like,  
feel like.

Now is the moment of magic,

and here's a blessing:

we already possess all the gifts we need;

we've already received our presents:

ears to hear music,

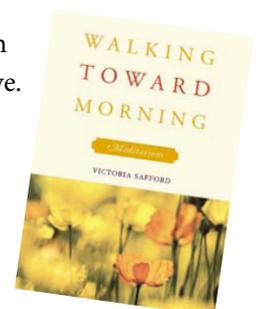
eyes to behold lights,

hands to build true peace on earth  
and to hold each other tight in love.

Source: *Walking Toward Morning*

By Victoria E Safford

Skinner House Books



# Wy'east Traditions

## Annual Hollywood Seniors Thanksgiving Luncheon

November 19th

Wy'east UU and the Hollywood Senior Center will co-host our 12th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon for seniors on Sunday, November 19. Last year we served over 70 seniors and holiday helpers. Amber from the Hollywood Senior Center provides turkeys, ham and other donated items, and members of Wy'east prepare side dishes, pies, and all the other fixins to complete this festive event. The luncheon runs from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm. If you would like to contribute a dish, look for the sign up sheet on Sunday or contact Kathy C., M.A. or Linda F., the coordinators of this event.



## Bread Sunday

November 26th

Each autumn, we pause to give thanks for the food we gather from the earth. On November 26th, in this intergenerational service, we'll hear a story from four of our members about the bread each has baked and how it connects to their personal history. Then, during social hour, they'll share these loaves with all of us.

## Celebration of Light

December 10th



Wy'east's annual winter pageant of holidays from religious traditions around the world will be taking place during worship on December 10th.

The children will act out scenes in stories from Native American, Hindu, Jewish, Pagan, Christian, Thai, Chinese and African-American traditions. Rehearsal for the celebration of light will be after worship on December 3rd, 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 will need several extra adults to help direct some of the holidays. 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 3, 12:00 noon

**Celebration of Light:** December 10th, 10:30 a.m.



# Before & After Worship

## Programming in November & December

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

### November 5

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

### November 12

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

### November 19

- **Set up for Hollywood Seniors Thanksgiving Luncheon** (No Social Hour) • 11:30 a.m.

### November 26

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.



### December 3

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m. (Potluck moved to Dec. 10)
- **Celebration of Light Rehearsal** • 12:00 noon

### December 10

- **Potluck Brunch** • 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share.
- **Poetry Group** • 12:00 noon

### December 17

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

### December 24

- There will be **no morning service or activities**.

### December 31

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 a.m.

### SUNDAY POTLUCKS

Our monthly potlucks will be held on **November 5th** and **December 10th**. 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 typically 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. \*This November, there will be no meeting, but the December meeting will be held as usual.

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.

## November 5 BUILD A GOOD FRONT PORCH

Last week we heard from several Wy'east members who shared their “elevator” or “front porch” speeches—short statements about what we mean when we speak of the “Unitarian Universalist” way. This morning I’ll share my own, along with some thoughts about how constructing such a speech is like building a *real* front porch. (I’ve never built an elevator!) 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.

## November 12 RAISING THE VOICES OF DISMISSED WOMEN

From **Julia Yoshimoto**, the Project Director of the Women’s Justice Project at the Oregon Justice Resource Center: “As a social worker and now as an attorney, I have the very humbling privilege of assisting women who live on the margins of our society – incarcerated women, pregnant women struggling with drug addiction, and houseless women. They inspire me to work to bring them and their issues into the light. I look forward to this opportunity to meet all of you and to share their stories, my experience assisting them, and to recognize them.”

**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.

## November 19 THE GRAMMAR OF FAITH

Today we’ll explore two famous passages from the Qur’an—Islam’s sacred text—and try to unpack their meaning. Can grammar be exciting? Come find out today! 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.

**Set up for Hollywood Seniors Thanksgiving Luncheon** (No Social Hour): 11:30 a.m.

## November 26 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, 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. This service coordinated by long-time Wy'east member, **Anders Liljeholm**.

**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.

## **December 3                    GATHER, COUNT, SORT AND MEASURE**

Is there a way to honor both science and religion without getting into an argument about their divergent truth-claims? Let's look at some of the basics that both approaches share. 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.

**Celebration of Light Rehearsal:** 12:00 noon. \*Potluck will be moved to December 10th.

## **December 10                    CELEBRATION OF LIGHT**

Our children will once again be presenting the Winter Pageant, which features them in adorable costumes acting out the solstice stories 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. This pageant coordinated by **Anders Liljeholm** and other religious educators.

**Service:** 10:30 a.m.

**There will be no R.E.**, as this is an intergenerational service. Childcare will be available. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

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

## **December 17                    UGLY FACE**

Some years back, a nationally syndicated columnist recoiled in disgust at a computer-generated reconstruction of what Jesus' face might have looked like. Her comments reveal an ugly mindset about the "Other" that we'll interrogate this morning. 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.

## **December 24                    CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 P.M. INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE**

We'll sing carols that remind us of childhood, hear stories that touch us, and end with our traditional candlelight Silent Night. This service coordinated by Wy'east congregational leaders **Linda and Bruce Macpherson**.

**Service:** 5:00 p.m. *There will be no morning service on December 24.*

## **December 31                    NEW YEAR HYMN SING**

At this winter time of 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. This is led by our member pianist, **Debra Tomsen**.

**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.