

# 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

September/October 2013

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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!*

## Marcia's Musings...

On August 13, at 3:00 in the morning, Katie and the kids and I all piled into the minivan and drove out east of town to watch the Perseid Meteor Showers. This is a tradition the girls and I have been doing since they were very little. We wake up early in the morning and drive out of the range of city lights. We bring sleeping bags, lay them out on the grass somewhere, and lie down, snuggling, watching for shooting stars. Some years, they're out in force. Other years, we're lucky to catch just a few. But every year, we enjoy snuggling together and looking hopefully up to the sky. Even when we don't see any, the girls say it's a very special time together. It's one of my favorite holidays.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Sunday Sermons

9/1	<b>Going from Ethics to Action</b>	Barbara Ross
9/8	<b>Water Communion</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
9/15	<b>The Entitlement of My Skin: Privilege and the Threats to Justice</b>	Marco Mejia
9/22	<b>What Does it Mean to be Unitarian?</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
9/29	<b>Getting at Privilege from the Grass Roots</b>	Sharon Gary-Smith
10/6	<b>Our Animal Companions</b>	Amy O'Brien
10/13	<b>The Things We Carry</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard
10/20	<b>Walking the Wilderness Way</b>	Rev. Solveig Nilsen-Goodin
10/27	<b>Remembrance</b>	Rev. Marcia Stanard

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

## From the Minister *(Continued)*

Traditionally, we stop at an all-night diner, eat breakfast afterwards, then head home and go back to sleep for a while. We look forward to this every year.

This year, for the first time, Katie, Duncan and Devin joined us. It was somewhat cloudy, but we each managed to see a few. It marked the beginning of an opening of the ritual to include the expanded family.



This is what rituals are--or what they should be. They expand to include new people. They're wonderful even when they're not perfect. Some years, the stars don't cooperate. We still enjoy lying on sleeping bags on the grass and looking up at the sky. Some years, the best part is what happens before or afterwards, like going home at dawn and seeing a mama raccoon and her three babies walking down our street.

Church rituals are similar. We need to not be locked into what they're supposed to look like. We need to let them expand and shift to include new people, honoring what these folks bring to the table. We need to remember that the underlying purpose of worship, and of all we do together, is to build community, support one another and those in the wider community, create a more just world and welcome the Holy. May it be so.

Blessed be, and Amen.

*-Rev. Marcia*

## Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bimonthly. The deadline for the November/December issue submissions is Thursday, October 17th. Please send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to: [weast-news-editor@googlegroups.com](mailto: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>

## 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](http://www.wyeastuu.org/contact)  
or [groups.google.com/group/wyeast](https://groups.google.com/group/wyeast)  
and [groups.google.com/group/wyeast-chat](https://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 Hank H. or anyone on the Connections Committee.

## There's an app for that

**Illuminations**, the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA's) first app is now available for free in the iTunes App Store and Google Play.

Illuminations has over 350 Inspirational Words, a Chalice Lighter with several chalice options, and a Seven Principles Guide in English and Spanish, along with examples of the Principles in action.



The Chalice Lighter comes with five chalice designs. Tap the screen to light it and tap it again to extinguish the flame. Alternatively you can blow, near the microphone, to extinguish the flame. The 'blow' feature can be disabled if you are using the chalice lighter in noisy environments and are having trouble keeping it lit.

All of the Inspirational Words and the Seven Principles can be shared via Facebook, Twitter, and email allowing you to inspire your friends.

By default the app will deliver Timely Words to your notification bar each day. You can disable this feature or change the frequency in the settings menu.

This work is made possible by the generosity of individual donors and congregations. Please consider making a donation today.

## Helping a Homeless Family

A team of 6 Wy'east women (Amy, Barbara, Diane, Mabel, Mary, Carol) and Tricie from a Presbyterian Church in Tigard are working under the auspices of the Village Support Network to assist and support a young family that has recently been homeless. Our family is Savanna and her 2 little boys and another one on the way (in fact due early September). We have met with her several times, getting acquainted and discussing some of the challenges in her life. The first issue was to gather some of the essentials she needed to set up a home after being homeless for a period of time.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Wy'east community and all the team members, we helped Savanna host a housewarming party on August 4th, and we were able to bring 3 carloads of donated items, including: baking pans and baking staples, a blender, toilet paper, hangers, laundry soap, cleaning supplies, new baby supplies, a carseat (a very lucky garage sale find!), a sewing machine with a small amount of basic sewing supplies, a bookshelf unit and piles of children's books and toys. Among the most imaginative contributions were the means to develop and display family photos and handsewn curtains for the boys' room. Marsha's old (and exceedingly heavy) couch/sofabed has found a new life as a basic necessity in this active family's living room. The team and Savanna offer the most heartfelt thanks to everyone in the Wy'east community who contributed something. Every single thing was most definitely needed and sincerely appreciated.

Savanna has some challenges related to her driver's license and car insurance, and these are being resolved as we work together. With the help of a very generous \$350 anonymous donation, we were able to make the first payments to get her set up with car insurance. She has worked as a house cleaner before and has commitments from family and friends to do housecleaning to help pay the insurance costs. She has a car and wants to be able to drive so she can sign up for the chef/restaurant work training program that the Village Support Network runs. If she can complete that, there is a good chance it will lead to a job.

The next big milestones in her life will be the birth of her baby in September and then trying to get some training so that she can find work.

Thank you so much Wy'east community from the whole Wy'east VSN Team!

## From the DRE...

Dear Wy'east,

It's an exciting time of year! The grocery store isles are lined with school supplies, we're all trying to fit in one last trip to the lake or ocean, and the RE committee is busy planning for another year of Religious Education.

I'd like to start by thanking all of the volunteers who made Wy'Camp happen this summer! We so appreciate your dedication to the kids at Wy'east and welcome you to continue working with RE throughout the year. Please feel free to attend an RE meeting and make sure to let us know if you're interested in teaching—we're currently looking for volunteer teachers to work for as few as one or two Sundays a month (don't worry, you will be supplied with lesson plans and materials).

We'll start the Religious Education year on September 8th. I love the first day of RE—I'm excited to find out what the kids have been up to this summer and to re-commit ourselves to our sacred space by brainstorming for a covenant that we can all agree on (last year's covenant included "be careful with other people's feelings and bodies" as well as "clean up after yourself!"). The RE committee has many ideas for what we'd like to work on together this year, and I know the kids and parents do as well. That's why we'll be hosting multiple RE meetings in the coming weeks, as well as sending out a survey to ask parents, guardians, and children what they'd like to focus on this year. Check your inbox—we'll send email reminders about the meetings and survey.

It's going to be a wonderful year—we'll be organizing opportunities for the kids to hang out with each other outside of Wy'east, we're working with nearby congregations to offer an Our Whole Lives program (part of the UU sexuality education curricula) to our middle schoolers, and we'll be having a lot of fun. We hope you'll join us!

Enjoy these final days of summer! I'll see you soon.

In faith,

*Ashley*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:wyeast-board@googlegroups.com) or talk to any board member on Sundays at church.

## Special Collections for September and October

September: **Portland Jobs with Justice**

“Portland Jobs with Justice is a coalition of more than 95 labor organizations and community groups dedicated to protecting the rights of working people and supporting community struggles to build a more just society. We are committed to: the creation of family wage jobs, support for organizing both here and abroad, support for community economic and civil rights struggles, and maintaining pressure to demand corporate accountability in our communities. We are also committed to creating an organization that is anti-racist and fully inclusive and welcoming to everyone.”

One of the projects of Portland Jobs with Justice is the Portland Area Workers’ Rights Board. “The Workers’ Rights Board is a public forum where workers can bring complaints against employers for violating their human and legal rights in the workplace. The Board is drawn from a broad spectrum of community leaders and can intervene with employers and the public to help resolve situations that threaten workers’ rights. The Board believes that it is especially important to support the efforts of low wage workers, who tend to be women, immigrants, young workers, and workers of color; to achieve justice in the workplace. Safe, living wage jobs, where workers are not discriminated against for speaking up for their rights, are the backbone of any healthy community. Workers’ Rights Boards currently exist in thirteen cities across the country.” <http://www.jwjpdx.org>

October: **McKenzie River Gathering**

“McKenzie River Gathering Foundation has given out over \$12 million in grants since 1976. MRG Foundation pools money from Oregon’s progressive community and distributes it back to grassroots groups working on a wide range of social change issues. MRG funding supports the most strategic work unfolding at the local level to address globalization, poverty, war, racism and environmental destruction. We currently provide well over half a million dollars in funding to progressive organizations a year. MRG Foundation’s grassroots grantmaking is unique. We recruit our board and grantmaking committee members from the communities we serve throughout Oregon. With the direct knowledge these grantmakers bring, we are able to respond to new ideas and fresh thinking. MRG Foundation makes grants that other foundations may view as ‘risky’ but are often funding years later. Using our grassroots grantmaking process, we have been an early funder on key issues including HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, immigration, and globalization.”

<http://www.mrgfoundation.org>

## Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice



Fourth Annual Meeting

October 19, 2013

10 am to 4 pm

Eugene Unitarian Universalist Church

1685 W. 13th Ave, Eugene, Oregon

At our annual meeting UUs from around the state will gather in Eugene to decide statewide advocacy priorities for 2014 and to commit ourselves to working together on those social justice issues. In 2014 there will be a short session of the state legislature and an election that will probably include a marriage equality ballot initiative. We want to know what you and your congregation are working on and how all of us working together can help to make our UU values known in the public square.

We will look back at last year’s activities and will briefly discuss organizational issues. Other agenda items include time to nourish our spirits, hear a keynote address, break bread together, and enjoy each other’s company. We’ll order in lunch (donation \$5) or you can bring a sack lunch. Beverages and light refreshments will be on hand.

Oregon UU Voices for Justice is one of fifteen statewide UU advocacy networks. For more information about Oregon UU Voices or the annual meeting, and/or to suggest action issues, contact [oregonuuvoices@yahoo.com](mailto:oregonuuvoices@yahoo.com) or visit [www.orvoicesoregon.org](http://www.orvoicesoregon.org)

Poetry

THE WY’EAST  
POETRY CIRCLE

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 **4th Sunday of every month**. 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.

# BEFORE & AFTER Worship

## Programming in September & October

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

September 1

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

September 8

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

September 15

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

September 22

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am
- **Wy'east Poetry Circle** • 12:00 noon *(see box on page 4)*

September 29

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am



October 6

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

October 13

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

October 20

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

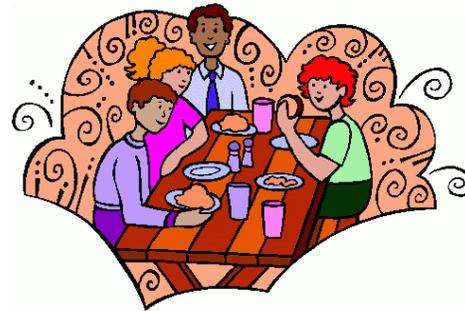
October 27

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am
- **Wy'east Poetry Circle** • 12:00 noon *(see box on page 4)*

## UU Adventures in Eating

### Sunday Potluck

Our potlucks will be held on **September 8th** and **October 13th**. Bring a dish to share.



### Restaurant Adventure

After our service on the **fourth Sunday** of each month, those who are interested gather for lunch at a local restaurant. It is an opportunity for lively, topical conversation and for enjoying the bounty of wonderful restaurant food available in Portland.

## 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](mailto:wyeast-worship@googlegroups.com) or talk to Mark A., Brooke C., Amy O., Larry B., or Marcia S.

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

## September 1 GOING FROM ETHICS TO ACTION

**Barbara Ross** of Wy'east says of her talk today, "This year the legislature passed a package of groundbreaking reforms to Oregon's prison system. How did this happen after years of frustration over the injustice of our criminal justice programs? You too have the power to join with others to address the tragic flaws in our society. Don't just be sad; take action."

**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.

## September 8 WATER COMMUNION

This service is our annual ingathering as we start the beginning of the new church year. Please bring a small amount of water that represents water that was important to you this summer. Somewhere you traveled, or the water from your backyard. Join us for this annual service that celebrates the blessings of clean and safe water! Service with 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.

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

## September 15 THE ENTITLEMENT OF MY SKIN: PRIVILEGE AND THE THREATS TO JUSTICE

Our presenter today, **Marco Mejia** of Portland Jobs with Justice, will address the following question: "How can I know when I have privilege based on my skin color, economic and social condition, gender, religion, if I am not engaged in an equal listening dialogue with those effected by it and am not suffering the same consequences?"

**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.

## September 22 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE UNITARIAN?

Unitarianism has been around nearly as long as Christianity though its meaning has changed over time. What has Unitarianism meant over the centuries; what does it mean to our co-religionists in Transylvania today; and what does it mean for us, here and now? This will be the first in a series of three sermons on historical Unitarian Universalism. 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.

**Social Hour:** Join us for refreshments after the service.

**Restaurant Adventure:** 11:40 a.m. Location to be announced during social hour.

## September 29 GETTING AT PRIVILEGE FROM THE GRASS ROOTS

**Sharon Gary-Smith** is the Executive Director of the McKenzie River Gathering, Oregon's largest social justice foundation. Her presentation about race and class privilege will focus on how working with bottom-up community organizations can make this state a more equitable place to live.

**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.

## October 6      OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS

**Amy O'Brien** of Wy'east will lead this service, regarding which she says, "The Seventh UU Principle is about respect for the interconnected web of all life. Many of us have to look no further than our own homes to see this in action. This Sunday, we will honor those special animals in our lives – pets, companion animals, service animals – both past and present. Bring a photo or two to add to our (magnetic) memory board."

**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.

## October 13      THE THINGS WE CARRY

Join us for this service in our series on privilege. Where do we carry privilege, and what places in our lives do we not carry privilege? What does it mean to occupy our own particular position, and what responsibilities do we have? This experiential service will feature some activities from a YWCA anti-racism workshop. 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.

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

## October 20      WALKING THE WILDERNESS WAY

On this Sunday, **Rev. Solveig Nilsen-Goodin**, founder of the Wilderness Way Community and a cutting-edge Lutheran minister, will invite us to reflect on three dimensions of wilderness – the natural world, the creative place where beloved communities are birthed, and the deep place where we discern our vocation as spiritual leaders – as well as three life-giving practices her community promotes which are reflected in each of these dimensions of wilderness: Sabbath, jubilee and shalom.

**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.

## October 27      REMEMBRANCE

Day of the Dead, or Dia de los Muertos, is a Mexican holiday celebrating and remembering those who have died. How do we remember our dead? Who do we remember? From heroes and heroines to ancestors and loved ones, what can we learn from those who have gone before? 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.

**Social Hour:** Join us for refreshments after the service.

**Restaurant Adventure:** 11:40 a.m. Location to be announced during social hour.