



The Wy'east Beacon

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

*Whoever you are,
Wherever you come from
You are welcome here*

Wy'east [*Wy'east' : Ancient name for Mount Hood*] WWW.WYEASTUU.ORG

March/April 2011

What's Inside?

*Helping
Immigrants &
Refugees
...Page 3...*

*Religious
Education
...Page 4...*

*Before & After
Worship
Programming
...Page 5...*

*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!*

From the Minister ♦♦♦

It's a beautiful February day as I write this—clear and sunny. The kind of day that portends spring—or maybe just the kind of day that gets us through the long stretches of late winter grey.

When I lived in Rhode Island, winter was more distinctive. Often we'd have at least some snow, and spring flowers took much longer to bloom. The gorgeous New England fall held a great deal of appeal, but by March, I was ready to see flowers. I decided that spring break was the perfect time to visit Oregon. Back east, we barely had crocuses in March, but here in Portland we've got daffodils, and even early tulips by late March.

Going for a springtime walk is a great activity. See what you notice out in your neighborhood. Where does unexpected beauty lie? Who among your neighbors has whimsical art? What's in bloom? What's coming into bud?

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

3/6	Amazing Grace	Elaine Castles
3/13	Speaking on Principle	Marcia Stanard
3/20	With Arms Wide Open: Embracing Joy	Wy'east
2/27	The End of the World as We Know It	Raz Mason
4/3	Sunday with Reedies	Reed College UUs
4/10	Stories of the Seven Principles	Marcia Stanard
4/17	Intergenerational Collage	Wy'east
4/24	Resurrection!	Marcia Stanard

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

From the Minister *(continued)*

And then, come into Wy'east. We have an amazing amount of energy these days. New faces keep arriving. It's harder to find a seat if you arrive late. We've just enrolled six new members, and there are more in the pipeline.

Where's the beauty around you? What beauty do you create? Here at Wy'east we want to grow, not just so we can have more warm bodies to volunteer and help pay the bills, but because we know we've got something special here. There is beauty all around us: beauty in the kids being sung out to religious education classes, beauty in the covenant we say together each week, beauty in the folks from immigrant and refugee groups who come in to tell us of the work they do, and beauty in the money we donate and the work we do together to support their efforts.

Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association says that our mission is to feed the spiritually hungry and house the religiously homeless. This is the work we do in the world, and it is beautiful. Let's let our light shine.

Warmly,
Marcia

Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bi-monthly. The deadline for the **May/June** issue submissions will be **Thursday, April 14th**. Please 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. Thanks!

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.php>



Standing on the Side of Love campaign manager Dan Furmanky was recently interviewed about social justice and the UUA's SSL campaign, on the 'State of Belief' radio show in February. To listen, go to <http://stateofbelief.com/show> and select 'Show Archive'.

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.

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 may 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 or talk to Mark A., Brooke C., Katy L., Mary P., or Marcia S.

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

Wy'east Special Collections

In **March**, our Special Collection will go to Oregon's **Center for Intercultural Organizing**.

"The Center for Intercultural Organizing is a diverse, grassroots membership organization working to build a multi-racial, multi-cultural movement for immigrant and refugee rights."

www.interculturalorganizing.org



In **April**, we'll be donating to the **Reed College UU Campus Ministry Group**. These students gather regularly at school, and every spring offer a Sunday morning service at Wy'east. Our fundraising goes toward supporting the UU Reed student who is the group's coordinator.



Helping Immigrants & Refugees become Part of Our Community

You may remember that our special collection in December was for Lutheran Community Services' (LCS') Reception & Placement Program. This program welcomes and assists refugees as they get settled in the Portland, Vancouver and Seattle areas. Volunteer sponsors—often family members, close friends, congregations or other organizations—greet arriving refugees at the airport, arrange accommodations, provide food and furniture, and orient the refugees to daily life in their new home. Case managers—able to speak the refugee's language—help newly-arrived refugees process paperwork and secure governmental assistance, enter employment programs, attend ESL classes, and generally find solutions to any

problems that arise in the resettlement process. The Reception & Placement Program is vital in advancing refugees towards self-sufficiency.

While Wy'east cannot sponsor a family right now, Stefani Bloch of LCS told us that donations of smaller household and hygiene items are always much appreciated. As you go about your travels and spring cleaning, please set aside the following new hygiene items and new (or gently used) kitchen supplies. The Social Justice chalice circle will collect the items and deliver them to LCS (date to collect your items TBD; please stay tuned).

The chalice circle will also reach out to local stores and giving programs of companies that make these types of products, in order to extend our donations. Items most needed include:

- bar soap
- shampoo
- shaving cream
- toothpaste and toothbrushes
- feminine hygiene products
- body lotion
- baby supplies: diapers, wipes, baby wash & shampoo
- pots and pans
- cutlery
- plates, bowls, glasses, mugs
- mixing bowls
- wooden spoons, spatulas
- tea kettles
- dish towels
- dish soap

The only thing that isn't appropriate for kitchen items are the fancier electronics, like food processors and electric can openers, which some families may not know how to use.

Questions? Talk to Marie W. or Laura R. at church, or send them an email. Thanks!

From the RE Committee

Dear Wy'casters,

If you've stood up to sing the children off with 'This Little Light of Mine' recently you may have noticed you're holding your hands higher and longer lately.

Thanks to a great many visitors, and a few new



members, our Religious Education program has been growing!

I have to say that a big reason for my

being a part of the RE program comes from the joy I get seeing parents who make that first big step, waking up early on a Sunday morning and getting out of the house to try something new for the sake of their children. I believe many of these parents are looking for a way to teach their children how to find connection to something beyond our everyday experience. Whether it's finding a safe and welcoming community, or finding answers to those questions that get bigger each passing day, or deciding there is more to raising a healthy child than providing square meals and homework help, whatever the reason, we at Wy'cast RE are aspiring to create a warm, welcoming space in which anyone can feel at home.

Currently our program is split into two groups, middle school aged and above, elementary school aged and below. We have one volunteer teacher, Anders L., and three paid staff: teachers Ashley M., and Rose T., and childcare giver, Anne S. This model has worked well to meet the needs of our program so far. However the needs of our program are changing as we welcome new members.

We have been doing a fair amount of planning in these past weeks. Anders L. is working to see his middle-school program expand and grow beyond the four walls of Wee Works as his children get to an age where making visits to other places of faith and worship is possible. For some children, making the move from discussions of the world's faiths to the action of witnessing is a life-changing shift in learning. We hope to get there sometime in 2011.

Ashley M. and Rose T. are on the verge of launching a third program to present to a newly formed pre-school aged group. This upcoming curriculum will be an introduction to community building and group participation for our youngest members. We'll be learning how we can step forward, reach out a hand and request, or offer acceptance to another person.

Speaking of reaching out that hand... our need for volunteer classroom assistants in RE is as great now as it has ever been. For our current members, and for our future visitors, we strive to create a safe place for learning. Often the presence of one extra adult is enough to allow our teachers to shift from child herding to program presentation. If you have not already, please step forward and reach out that hand. You can see what is happening each week in RE at our on-line calendar. <http://www.wyecastuu.org/religious-education>

Liana Aburto

Chairperson for Religious Education

From the Board

Want to know more about what goes on in the monthly board meetings? Minutes are posted on the Wy'cast website: <http://wyecastuu.org/boardminutes>.

All are welcome to sit in on the meetings. They are generally the Monday following the second Sunday of the month. If you are interested in attending, check with any board member for the exact time, date and location.

Contacting RE & the Board of Trustees

Contact Liana A., the Religious Education Committee Chair if you have questions about our children's programming at Wy'cast: wyecast-re@googlegroups.com.

If you have questions for the Wy'cast Board of Trustees, you can send an email to wyecast-board@googlegroups.com or talk to any board member (David Tode O., Karl A., Dan E., Hank H., and Liana A.) on Sundays at church.

Before & After Worship Programming in March & April

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

MARCH 6

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

MARCH 13

- **Potluck Brunch** • bring a dish to share right after the service.

MARCH 20

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Special Presentation** • 12:15 pm (*see box below*)

MARCH 27

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



APRIL 3

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

APRIL 10

- **Potluck Brunch** • bring a dish to share right after the service.

APRIL 17

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

APRIL 24

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

UU Adventures in Eating

SUNDAY POTLUCK

Our potlucks will be held on **March 13th** at 11:30 am and **April 10th** at 11:30 am. 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 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.

Special Presentation

Following our Sunday morning service on **March 20th**, we will be having a presentation and discussion about the current events in Egypt. The two young adult presenters are Egyptian women living in Portland, and are Muslims known to us by their participation in the interfaith community. We will begin at 12:15 pm after our social hour, and go until 1:15 pm. Childcare will be provided.

TWO MONTHS OF SUNDAYS

March

March 6 AMAZING GRACE

As part of our exchange program with the Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Hood River, our speaker on March 6th will be **Elaine Castles**, who spoke to us last summer as well. Her talk is a thoughtful look into the *experience* of grace.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

March 13 WITH ARMS WIDE OPEN: EMBRACING JOY

Unitarian Universalists have not been known for embodying joy; instead we sometimes seem more comfortable with rational intellectualism. What lessons does joy have to teach us? Our Consulting Minister, **Marcia Stanard** leads our service.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. 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 STORIES OF THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

This intergenerational service is a storybook show and tell. Adults are bringing their favorite story books that tell a story about our seven principles: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion; acceptance of many different kinds of people; search for truth and meaning; democratic process; peace; respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Dr. Seuss, Patricia Polacco, and a host of other writers in the hands of our adults will parade through the service (metaphorically, through their writing).

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): There will be no RE, as this is an intergenerational Service. Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Special Presentation: 12:15 p.m.

March 27 THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

The lyrics of a popular song from a few years back say, "It's the end of the world as we know it...and I feel fine." Some say the end of the world is coming in 2012. Likely not...but there are difficulties facing us in our personal lives and in the world. How can we embrace hope and love and squarely address those challenges? We'll discuss some paradoxical ways to find the strength to get through.

Raz Mason is a UU ministerial candidate and chaplain candidate in the US Navy. She earned a master of divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in 2009 and worked the past year as a chaplain resident at the VA hospital in Portland while completing a congregational internship at Olympia UU Congregation.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

April

April 3 SUNDAY WITH REEDIES

Once a year, students from the Unitarian Universalist group at Reed College visit us to share their own spiritual journeys. Wy'east sponsors this group, and it's a wonderful way for all of us to see how connected and vital we each are in supporting spiritual journeys through the community at large.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

April 10 SPEAKING ON PRINCIPLE

Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal religion, but our Seven Principles form a guiding framework for our beliefs about how we wish to be in relationship with each other and our world. This sermon examines our Principles, how they came to be, and how we can use them to guide our actions. Our Consulting Minister, Marcia Stanard leads our service.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

Our congregation is a patchwork and this service celebrates it! We'll come together for a service of sharing and creating, making group collages that celebrate our Wy'east life and illustrate our hope for the future. We hope you'll join us for this intergenerational service, because you are part of our picture!

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): There will be no RE, as this is an intergenerational Service. Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

April 24 RESURRECTION!

On this Easter morning we will examine ideas and concepts that should be resurrected. Our Consulting Minister, **Marcia Stanard** leads our service.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

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