



WY' EAST NEWS AND NOTES

WY' EAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
JANUARY 2007

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

January 7

SAYING "YES"

How often do we say yes in life? Yes to all of life, to the fullness of living? What would happen if we did? What might unfold — in our work, our families, our love lives? What grand adventure is waiting for us, if we can just say that simple word? Cecilia Kingman Miller is in the pulpit.

Choir Rehearsal at 4:00pm.

Religious Education classes will meet downstairs in preparation for the Council of All Beings.

First Sunday Supper – Bring a potluck dish to share.

January 14

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF MINISTERS

"Minister" is both a noun and a verb. In our Unitarian Universalist communities of shared ministry, professional religious leaders aren't the only ones who "minister." What does it look like for a congregation to care for each other and its leaders? In this sermon, Rev. Erika Hewitt explores some of the implications of the covenant between a congregation and its professional ministry.

Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.

Hymn Sing at 4:45 p.m.

Religious Education classes will meet downstairs in preparation for the Council of All Beings.

Second Sunday Soup – Bring a vegetable to church. Contributions of bread and salad are also welcome.

January 21

RACE MATTERS

We live in a nation still torn by the old hurts of slavery, and still living out the legacy of those wounds. Our understanding of racism remains limited to black and white, and we haven't begun to fully grasp the challenges — and gifts — of our pluralistic society. How can religious people engage these questions meaningfully? And how can we build our beloved community? Cecilia Kingman Miller is in the pulpit.

Vocal Skills class at 3:45 p.m.

Religious Education classes will meet downstairs in preparation for the Council of All Beings.

First meeting of the Middle School "Journey Toward Wholeness" anti-racism religious education class.

Restaurant Adventure at 7 p.m.

January 28

THIS I BELIEVE

Our ongoing "This I Believe" series is designed to help us know and understand each other better while showing the diverse beliefs within our community. This month a newer member of our faith, Linda, will share her unique beliefs with us.

Religious education classes will meet downstairs in preparation for the Council of All Beings.

Social Hour – Join us for refreshments and conversation after the service.

Cecilia's Corner



A new year! A new beginning! What are your hopes in this New Year? Your dreams, your resolutions? And what are the steps you'll take to make those hopes real? I know that too often my New Year's resolutions are lofty and idealistic, but lack a scaffolding of reality to support them. For example, for years I resolved to improve both my Hungarian and my piano playing, but never made any progress. Then last year, tired of my own failures, I created a plan. I studied Hungarian twice a week, and found someone else who was also learning the language. We encouraged each other, and by the end of the spring I had finally cracked the difficult code of past-tense conjugation; no small feat in this most difficult of languages! Same with the piano: I started playing several evenings a week right before dinner, and I am amazed at how much progress I've made this year. (No, you won't find me accompanying hymns any time soon, but I can at least play my simple learner book.)

How many of our dreams might become real if we put structures into place to support their growth? What do you need to achieve your goals? Practice?

A coach? A supportive friend? Some quiet time?

And for this congregation: What is needed to achieve the vision of a thriving, vital eastside church? In the months to come, as you move through the search process, what will we need to do to prepare for your new minister? Some things are clear: we need to practice healthy communication and conflict skills; we need to generously fund the goal of a half-time minister; we need to keep welcoming the lovely newcomers arriving at our door. We will talk more this month and next about how to do those things, but they are all important steps to achieving your dreams.

Some of you have shared with me your sense of anxiety as you move forward in the search for a new minister. I think it is helpful to remember that in order to achieve our goals, we have to undergo the process of change—both internal and external. And change is hard! During change we can feel anxious, sad, or afraid, or we may have an urge to control things, or want to take on too many details. We may fear that all we have loved will be lost to us. We may resent the causes of the change, or those who seem to be pushing change upon us. These are understandable emotions, for in an uncertain world, we want our church to be a place of comfort and certainty.

Yet this congregation's vision is a bright one: A place of freedom and love and kindness. A community that nurtures its members and welcomes the stranger at the door. A place to raise children into wise and good adults. A voice of justice and mercy in a troubled world.

That vision can come about only through ongoing growth in both numbers and spiritual depth. Through all the changes to come, remember that the fear of change is the worst part of it. Remember that the opposite of change is stagnation. And remember, above all, that this is a loving church living into a bright future. Together we will practice and learn and grow into the community you wish to be!

Special Note: As most of you have heard, I have been asked by the District to step into an immediate ministry shortage in the Eugene congregation. The interim minister there has gone on medical leave for the remainder of the year, and a retired minister and I have been asked to each fill in part time to guide the congregation through the rest of their interim year. While this will not change my responsibilities with you at Wy'east, it does mean that I will have to be down in Eugene ten days a month, and that when I am with them I will be giving them my full attention.

We have had the wonderful luxury of my proximity to Wy'east; unlike most part-time ministers I have been able to give you the fullness of my

attention and availability. Now, with these added duties, we will all have to create more clarity about my time with you.

This is actually good news for when I leave and your new minister comes. In all likelihood, he or she will also have another job (it's hard to get by on a part-time minister's salary) and so we can consider this good practice for that time. Please know that I will make every effort to respond in a timely fashion to Wy'east's needs, and please also keep the Eugene congregation in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this difficult transition. Thank you!

In faith,
Cecilia

P.S. I'll be on vacation from December 25 through January 6—see you in the New Year!



From the Board

On December 10 we had 46 adults and 16 children at our service. A year ago, on December 11, 2005, we had 39 adults and 13 children. That doesn't seem like a lot in absolute terms, but it's 18% more adults and 23% more children! Did you notice how

warm it felt in the sanctuary, and how nice it was to eat soup together afterwards? Our investment in ministry and religious education is paying off, not only in new people but in how nice it feels to be together on Sunday evenings. I have been writing up some statistics about the congregation and I thought I would like to share them with you:

8 active committees this year
4 active committees last year
2 children's RE classes this year
(1 more to start in January)
1 children's RE class last year
2 adult RE classes this fall
3 adult RE classes scheduled for spring
0 adult RE classes last year
19 members in the family choir
10 members in the chamber players

No wonder Wy'east feels like such a lively place these days!

Also on December 10, the Search Committee shared the results of their congregational survey. Theologically we are all over the map, but there are some things that we are in remarkable agreement over. Almost everyone thinks that the most important things Wy'easters do are Sunday services, children's religious education, and building community through social events. We think the sermon and singing together are important, and the purpose of Sunday services is to help us understand ourselves, develop

our spiritual beliefs, and spur us to act on those beliefs.

Your board has been talking about growth quite a bit recently. We haven't come to any conclusions except that we are pleased with all that is going on, and that growth has its challenges as well as its benefits. We are confident that Wy'east is on the right path, but there may be some things that could use a little tweaking. Please let us know about the things you like and the things that you don't like, your hopes and your fears. We will have a much better chance of building the kind of congregation you want if you tell us what that means. We really mean it when we stand up each Sunday and invite your comments.

A few notes about the search: The committee is about to go into its silent phase. We are posting our position on the UUA web site to have the widest selection of candidates. The committee will be looking at resumes, phoning candidates and references, and interviewing candidates. During this time they will be keeping their own counsel. Even though we don't hear about it, be certain they will be hard at work choosing the best, most awesome, minister for us to meet in April. The Search Committee's silence applies to the board as well as to the congregation. They will only report their progress in the most general terms. "We are conducting telephone interviews." "We are doing in-

person interviews." We have entrusted the committee with the search. That means we trust them to do the best possible job of finding the best possible minister for Wy'east. If there is something you wish the survey had asked, or something you wish you had said in your responses, be sure to let Anders, Mabel, Debra, Rich, or Harold know this month (January).

By the time you get this column it will be too late to wish you Happy Hannukah, Merry Christmas, Happy Solstice or Happy Kwanzaa. But I can wish you all the very best of New Years. May you and yours prosper and be happy, and may we continue to share the welcoming community that is Wy'east.

Barbara,
Board Moderator ♦

Lifespan Religious Education



**From Marcia Stanard, LRE
Coordinator:**

As I write this column, we've just finished one Wy'east tradition and are looking forward to another. Celebration

of Light, wonderfully directed by Anders took place on December 17, giving our children and youth a taste of performing this year.

In January, the young people of our congregation will work on the Council of All Beings, another long time tradition here. Katy will take charge of the Council, working with a local artist to help the children create shadow puppets. The service is scheduled for Sunday, February 4. This tradition involves the young people with our 7th principle: *respect for the interdependent web of existence, of which we are all a part*. Kids have an inherent love for the earth and its creatures. This will give them the chance to share some of their wonder and wisdom with the adults.

As some of you know, I will be gone during the month of January, off in Chicago at seminary at Meadville Lombard. While you are enjoying a rainy Northwest winter, I'll be braving breezes and snow in Chicago and taking interesting classes in overheated rooms. This term, I'll be studying *Problems in Public Policy* with William Schultz, former president of the UUA and most recently, head of Amnesty USA. I'm also taking *Evil, Trauma and Ambiguity* and *UU History*. I intend to come back full of knowledge and eager to return to the pleasant work of guiding and nurturing our children and youth. Please direct any

questions to Karla in my absence. ♦

From Karla, LRE Chair

Wy'east had a successful and full schedule for its Lifespan Religious Education classes this fall. Many of us are looking forward to more offerings in 2007. Our own Cecilia Kingman Miller will be offering some adult courses, and OWL (Our Whole Lives) for adults will be offered by Janelle and Sean in the spring. If you are interested, please contact one of them or a member of the LRE committee.

On January 21, the middle school class will begin meeting with Anne every other week. They want to design their own lessons focusing on Social Justice. Anne is looking for an eager co-teacher. We are hoping that these same kids will be interested in joining with the younger kids the other Sundays in January to prepare for the Council of All Beings.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for our 8th & 9th graders is being organized with other local UU congregations starting in the spring. We do not have definite details at this time. If you are interested in taking the course, please contact Karla. She needs a realistic count of students and parents able to transport kids to the meetings.

In January, we are offering a new RE Class for Middle Schoolers: ***Journey Toward Wholeness***. It is based on the

UUA Journey Toward Wholeness initiative. A large part of the initiative is focused on promoting multicultural ways of life and combating racism. The class will explore several cultures found in the Pacific Northwest and their experiences of racism. We'll cover some historical context, learn about contemporary issues, and look at opportunities for healing. Along the way, we plan to have some fun trying out recipes and arts and crafts of other cultures, pursuing a social action project, and maybe planning a field trip and movie night. The class will meet every other week during Sunday services.

Journey Towards Wholeness
class schedule and topics:

- January 21
Introduction and Kickoff
- February 4 & 18
Black History Month
- March 4 & 18
Asian American Experiences
- April 1, 15, & 30
Native American Stories
- May 13
Wrap-up

If you would like additional information or if you know of a middle schooler who would like to register for the class, call Anne.

As always, the LRE committee welcomes your suggestions. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Jan 10.

Music Matters



This fall we tried something new— a hymn sing before service on the second Sunday of the month. Your voices have warmed the hall, welcomed folks coming through the doors, and strengthened our singing as a community. Thanks to your enthusiasm, we plan to continue offering this opportunity on a monthly basis in the New Year.

Starting in January, the Vocal Skills class will be moved to the **third** Sunday of the month and start at 3:45 p.m. You are welcome to join us in this supportive setting to discover or rediscover the joy of using your voice in unity and in harmony with others.

The Wy'east Family Choir will now rehearse on **first** and **second** Sundays in 2007, and as needed on **third** Sundays, after the Vocal Skills class.

Childcare is available on Sundays at 3:45 p.m. for all music classes and rehearsals.

You are the U in mUsic,

Linda Jo
Music Director ♦

From The Search Committee

Wy'east's search for a new minister is going well! As you know, our contract with Cecilia is up in July, so we're working on a replacement. The Search Committee sent out a survey, and we got a very good response, giving us a clear picture of who we are as a congregation. We shared these results during the potluck on December 10. If you missed them, we'd be happy to share them with you.

By the time you read this, we hope to have refined our Search Packet to a final draft, and be sharing it with the congregation, too. A Search Packet is a binder full of information about who we are as a congregation. Interested ministers receive a copy of the packet while we receive their resumes and curricula vitae.

A packet will include descriptions about who we are, how many members we have and from what walks of life, and what we believe. It will include sections on what we do, from music to potlucks, and how the different things we do together as a community are important to us. And it will describe what we are looking for in a minister: which qualities are most important to our community, and what we hope to find.

Plus, there will be lots of beautiful photographs, thanks to Tode, of us doing all the things we do.

Anders,
Search Chair ♦

Building Fund Started!

In December, Wy'east received a very generous \$1,000 anonymous donation to start a Building Fund. Renting has its advantages -- replacing the tile in the nursery after THE FLOOD isn't our problem, thank goodness. But it would certainly be nice to control our own space, to have accessible bathrooms, to have adequate office and storage space, and to have better accommodations for religious education, not to mention more room in the sanctuary.

All Wy'easters are invited to help make this new Building Fund grow, with large or small, regular or one-time contributions. It's so easy. Just write a check, put "Building Fund" in the memo line, and drop the check in the collection box any Sunday. If you care to have a conversation about some kind of planned giving, we can figure that out too. Questions? Ask Barbara or Joanne. Won't it be nice to have a home of our own? ♦

UU Adventures in Eating



Join us for our monthly **First Sunday Supper** on January 7 immediately after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share. **Second Sunday Soup:** Bring a vegetable to church on January 14 and drop it off in the basket before the service. Our soup chef extraordinaire Mark will use it to prepare a delicious vegetarian soup to be enjoyed after the service. Contributions of bread and salad are also welcome. After the service on January 21 we will have our monthly **Restaurant Adventure**. This month we will enjoy Mexican food at Dingoes at 4612 SE Hawthorne at 7:00 p.m. ♦

Denominational Doings

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) February 16 to 18 in Boise, ID. Join with other UUs from around the Pacific Northwest for a weekend of workshops, worship, and doing the district's business. Early bird registration from now to Jan 13. Half price at the Grove Hotel for reservations made before Jan 26. Wy'east is entitled to send two voting delegates, who will

each get \$40 from the district to help defray travel expenses. Let Barbara know if you wish to be a delegate.

A **Chalice Lighters' Call** is going on now to raise money to help youth from the district attend the **General Assembly** of the UUA here in Portland in June (see below). **Chalice Lighters** give \$10 or more 3 times a year to support some PNWD effort, usually a growth related activity of an individual congregation. This call will provide scholarship money to each and every congregation in the district to send youth to GA. See Morgan to sign up to be a **Chalice Lighter** and to donate to this call.

The **General Assembly of the UUA (GA)** will be here in Portland June 20-24, 2007. Mark your calendars. Early registration will be March 1 to April 30. GA will be a not-to-be-missed experience. Come worship with 3,000+ other Unitarian Universalists. There are a few full scholarships available in exchange for working 20-25 hours over the 4 days of GA. See Barbara for more information. ♦

Guest at the Door

We are getting a little full these days at Wy'east. Have you wondered what it feels like to join us for the first time, and feel a little bit uncertain about where to sit? Studies show that newcomers feel daunted when they arrive at a church and

cannot easily find a place for them and their family. And newcomers also like to feel that they have a little room around them; they don't know the other people well enough to cozy right up. New folks also don't like to be right up front. They seek some anonymity closer to the back.

This goes along with what we know about people going to a church for the first visit: More than 75% of church visitors are in a time of life crisis or major transition. They come to church hoping the anxiety or grief on their face isn't too obvious. Anything which eases their awkwardness and vulnerability is a kindness.

We do have limited seating at Waverly, and so we ask that those of you who are regular attendees try to sit in some of the less-used seats, particularly up front (we promise Cecilia doesn't bite), or along the sides. Please remember to scoot into the pews and leave plenty of room along the center aisle for those coming in later. And of course, please warmly welcome those newcomers and say to them, "We're glad you're here!" ♦

Missing Hymnals

Many of our grey hymnals have gone a-wandering from home. Perhaps you borrowed one to learn a few hymns or copy a reading? If so, please return it right away—we're short on Sundays! Thank you! ♦

Lay Leader Training and Worship Retreat

Ever wanted to help lead worship? Ever heard of "liturgical theory" and wondered where to get some? Like reading poetry in front of people? If so, this workshop is for you! In this lively, interactive workshop, we will learn what makes for a warm and inviting worship service, and how each element of the service has a special job to do. We'll play with the different parts of the service, take our turns trying out different components, share a potluck lunch, and create a worship service to close our time together.

Anyone who is interested in lay leading is strongly encouraged to attend, and others are welcome as well! Led by Cecilia Kingman Miller and members of the Worship Committee. Saturday, January 20, 2007, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church. Please RSVP to the church office. ♦

Workshop Announcement

Introduction to the Enneagram: Discovering the Nine Points of View in Love, Work and Spiritual Development.
Facilitated by Dale Rhodes, Certified Enneagram Trainer. This workshop will help you

identify your own type, not to put you into a box, but to help you identify the limitations of a box you may already be in, and to give you guidance on how you may break free and develop beyond it. Each participant will receive a copy of the best Enneagram assessment tool and text on the market today.

When: Saturday, January 13, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Costs: \$40 (includes book)

Where: Michael Servetus UU Fellowship, 4505 E. 18th, Vancouver, WA 98664

How to Register: Send check for \$40 to payable to "MSUUF" with "Enneagram" notation to MSUUF. Include name, phone, email.

Questions? Contact gretchenmeyer@comcast.net or 360-608-8572. ♦

Newsletter News

Articles for the February, 2007 newsletter are due by 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 17. Send submissions to wyeast-news-editor@holycow.portland.or.us. We're still looking for a co-editor for the newsletter – someone who is good with cut and paste. Let Barbara know if you would like to help out in this way. ♦

January 2007—Calendar of Events

*** Unless noted by an asterisk,
all events are at the church**

OofS=order of service

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat.
3	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3 10am OofS deadline 7 pm Board Meeting	4 NO LUNCH 1-3pm Office hours	5	6
7 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 6pm Potluck Supper	8	9 7pm Worship Committee Meeting	10 10am OofS deadline 7pm LRE meeting	11 12pm lunch with Cecilia 1-3pm Office hours	12	13
14 4pm Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm Hymn Sing 5pm Service 6pm Soup Supper	15	16	17 10am OofS deadline 6pm Newsletter deadline	18 12pm lunch with Cecilia 1-3pm Office hours	19	20 10am to 2pm Lay Leader & Worship Retreat
21 3:45pm Vocal Skills 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour 7pm Restaurant Adv.	22	23	24 10am OofS deadline	25 12pm lunch with Cecilia 1-3pm Office hours	26	27
28 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour	29	30	31 10am OofS deadline			

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