



WY' EAST NEWS AND NOTES

WY' EAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

JUNE 2007

We are a Welcoming Congregation to all persons regardless of race, color, gender, affectional or sexual orientation, age, national or ethnic origin, or economic background.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

June 3 ALL THE COLORS – FLOWER COMMUNION

Bring a flower for the flower communion! Today happens to be the birthday of Norbert Capek, the Czech minister who created this lovely ritual. Cecilia Kingman Miller and Marcia Stanard lead this intergenerational service celebrating the diversity of gifts we find in our community. We will also have a volunteer recognition and installation of new board members.

Family Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.

Religious Education – Children stay for the entire service, with nursery care for pre-schoolers and babies.

First Sunday Supper – Bring a potluck dish to share following the service.

June 10 GOOD GOODBYES

Letting go is hard, and yet learning to say goodbye is part of becoming spiritually mature. Today, in Cecilia's next-to-last sermon, let's face together the wonderful lessons of good goodbyes.

Family Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m. Hymn Sing at 4:45 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-5th) Children attend beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class.

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

June 17 PARENTING FROM THE HEART

On Fathers' Day, we will celebrate all the different ways people can make a difference in the life of a child. After the service, the children will treat us to homemade ice cream! Marcia Stanard is in the pulpit.

Youth Ensemble Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-5th) Children attend beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class.

Social Hour – Join us for refreshments after the service.

June 24 UU GENERAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE (No Wy' east service today)

Join thousands of Unitarian Universalists in worship at General Assembly. This spectacular service is free and open to the public, so bring your friends to the Oregon Convention Center from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

AND TWO MORE SPECIAL DAYS

July 1 MAY THE SPIRIT OF LOVE SURROUND YOU

In Cecilia's last service with us, she'll share her reflections on our time with her these last two years. What was this sacred path we walked together, and where will we – and she – go from here?

Family Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-5th) Children attend beginning of the service, then go downstairs for class.

Good-bye Reception for Cecilia – Following the service, join us for refreshments and to wish Cecilia well.

Friday, June 29 FAREWELL PARTY FOR CECILIA

Join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall downstairs at Waverly. (See page 3 for more on the festivities.)

Cecilia's Corner



Dear Wy'easters,

This is my last newsletter column for you. Writing that, I feel such a tumult of emotions! I'm sad knowing that soon we will say goodbye, and I will leave you. And I'm so happy to have served you these two years.

Parting is hard. One of the younger children asked recently why I had to leave, and I want to share with you the answer I gave her: "My job when I came was to help you get ready for a new minister. I've done my job!" You had been through so much as a church, and were still struggling with the departure of your previous minister and the loss of members over the conflict of that departure. My task was to help you heal from that break and to work to stabilize the congregation – in both numbers and vision. As I said to this youngster: "It's not that I don't love you, for I do. It's just time for me to go." My work here is done, as the character says. My charge was very specific, and I couldn't have done my job if I had been secretly hoping that you would hire me permanently. My ability to speak hard truths and experiment with various forms and structures was part of the plan of knowing I would leave.

And so, as I leave, I am proud. Proud of what we have done together! And I go away happy, knowing that you have a new minister who will love you and serve you into a new future.

You were my first ministry; though I was not yet a full-fledged minister when I came to you, you were the first congregation I served on my own, and for me it has been a remarkable experience. When I came to you I was a bit doubtful about serving in a parish. I was still pondering other paths of ministry, and there were days when I doubted that I had what it took to serve a congregation day in and day out. Your gift to me was the full development of my call, and the result is a deep and resounding yes to parish ministry. Thank you for that blessing!

I do hope that you will all come to my ordination June 18. (See the invitation below.) Knowing that you have helped shape my path into ministry gives you a special stake in that day, one symbolized by the act of investiture. During that part of the ceremony, Barbara and Janelle will place my first ever stole on my shoulders, a symbol of my acceptance of the mantle of ministry. The stole is a gift from Wy'east, and I will treasure it always, as I will always treasure you as my first church.

Some of you have asked where I am serving next. I can't yet share that news with you, but I will just as soon as I can. My family will remain in Portland;

I'll no doubt see you from time to time. Our relationship will be different moving forward, though. I will no longer be serving you; that means no "shop talk" if we cross paths at Fred Meyers. (We can talk baseball, though!)

My last day with you will be July 1. During that service I'll share some of what I learned from you, and some of what I observed about you. We'll say a final goodbye that day, but we'll have lots of chances to say goodbye between now and then. And when I go from you, it will be with deep gratitude for all that we have shared, and with a great delight in your future!

With love,
Cecilia

An Invitation

The Congregation of First Unitarian Church requests the Honor of your presence
At the Ordination of
Cecilia Kingman Miller.

Monday, June 18, 2007
7:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Church
1011 S.W. Twelfth Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Dessert reception to follow.

RSVP by June 8:
jborr@firstunitarianportland.org
or 503-228-6389, ext. 23.
Childcare available by request.

Don't Miss the Farewell Celebrations for Cecilia!

Please come to a potluck on Friday, June 29th to celebrate Cecilia Kingman Miller's tenure as our minister. Let's send Cecilia off in style! Bring food to share and any memories or good-bye wishes you'd like to express during the celebration. We will have an "open mic" time to show our appreciation to Cecilia (and tell any funny stories about her time with us!)

Cecilia's last day in our pulpit will be Sunday, July 1st. Following this special service, we will hold a reception in her honor in Hyde Hall at Waverly.



From the Board

Yes, we did it! At the Special Congregational Meeting on April 29, we decided to ask Susan Maginn to share the next steps of our journey with us. She will be our minister starting on August 1. Her first time in our pulpit this fall will be on August 26. During August she will be getting to know us –

meeting with committees, talking with members of the congregation, and planning the coming year. Meanwhile, we have this year to finish. And there's lots to do. Cecilia will be in our pulpit 3 more times. On June 3 she will lead a Flower Communion, on June 10 she will preach on saying "Good Goodbyes", and on July 1, we will wish her farewell.

On June 24 there will be NO service at Wy'east. That evening, the closing worship of General Assembly is open to all, whether or not you have registered for GA. The opportunity to worship with 5,000 other Unitarian Universalists is NOT TO BE MISSED! The two-hour service starts at 4:00 p.m. in the Convention Center.

By the time you read this column, we will have had our Annual Meeting, and a new Board will be in place. The Nominating Committee has nominated Jill and Karl to join the board and Barbara and Mark to serve a second term. Joanne has another year of her term to go. Anders and Debra are going off the board. Thank you, Anders and Debra.

Marcia Stanard has agreed to stay on for another year as our Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator. We appreciate her steady presence with our children on Sunday evenings, and her guidance in all of our religious education programming. Thanks are also due to Linda Jo for all the

wonderful music she makes possible, and to Rich for his able caring for the many details of keeping our office running smoothly. Thanks also to our committee chairs: Karla in Lifespan Religious Education, Sarah in Worship, Bruce in Membership, Anders in Search, and Debra in Cares and Concerns. We couldn't do it without you, or without all the people who contribute in so many large and small ways.

And finally, as you relax and refresh your spirit this summer, don't forget to collect some water for the water communion on Homecoming Sunday, September 9. It can be from as near as your garden hose in your back yard, or some faraway exotic travel destination – wherever you find renewal.

Barbara
Board Moderator ♦

Music Matters



Summer is here, and with it some seasonal changes to our music program. The Vocal Skills class is finished for the year. Thanks to all who have participated. Also, the Wy'east Family Choir will be on vacation from July 2 through the month of August.

Music Matters cont.

If you are interested in singing with the choir next fall, please let me know, or leave a message at the Wy'east office, and I will be in touch with you during the summer.

Attention instrumentalists: ensemble opportunities abound! If you would like to join our growing community of musicians, we welcome you.

Linda Jo
Music Director ♦

Note-by-Note Fundraiser!

We are blessed to have a talented group of service musicians who provide music month after month for our congregation. Here's something you may not know. When it comes to our pianists, their skill levels hide the fact that the spinet piano in the sanctuary is not easy to play. They know which keys occasionally refuse to sound, may choose pieces in key signatures that circumvent those notes, avoid music that must be played softly, know how to muster up enough strength to get the notes to sound, and grin and bear it when the instrument goes prematurely out of tune.

After researching possible solutions to this situation, pricing various types of pianos, both new and used, and factoring in moving and

maintenance costs, we decided to wait a bit. Then, while waiting, a friend generously offered to donate her Kawai digital piano to our congregation if we would be willing to pay for the cost of repairs to get it working in top form again. Although a digital piano doesn't have the same resonance as an acoustic piano, and won't work during a power outage, it does offer several advantages: it doesn't need to be tuned, it can better withstand the wide variations in temperature and humidity inherent in a church environment, and this model offers a number of different tone qualities, including organ, piano, vibraphone, and harpsichord.

Luckily for us, the estimated cost of repairs is low enough that it is feasible for our congregation to raise the money to own this instrument. During the month of June, you will have the opportunity to "buy" a key; there are 88 of them on this full-sized keyboard. For the low price of \$2.50, you can purchase the key of your choice. How about the opening theme of Beethoven's 5th Symphony for \$10? The notes to "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" can be yours for \$12. Together, note by note, we can bring the reality of a new keyboard instrument to our community.

For those musicians who prefer playing an acoustic piano, that option will still be available. Waverly has generously agreed to give us space to keep the

digital piano on the chancel, while retaining the acoustic piano on the lower level.

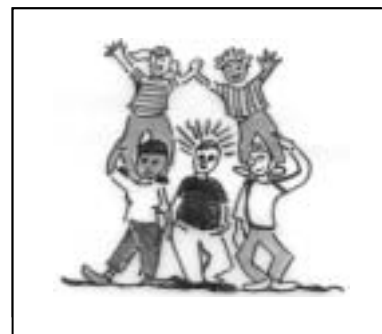
Having had experience mainly with acoustic pianos, I was at first skeptical about choosing a digital piano. After spending time playing this instrument, I became increasingly excited about the diversity of musical styles it can support, and the opportunities that this opens up in the musical life of our congregation.

Save those nickels and dimes!

Harmoniously Yours,

Linda Jo
Music Director ♦

LRE Lifespan Religious Education



Teamwork helped us expand Wy'east's Lifespan Religious Education program this year, and we are excited about our next year together. Many changes are already in the works as your LRE committee is eager to enhance our programs, and we are looking forward to collaborating with

Susan Maginn, our new minister.
LRE cont.

In September, we hope to begin with three children's classes.

At this point, we envision classes breaking down into Pre-K-K, 1st-4th, and 5th-8th. Our goal for next year is to have two teachers for each grade level, so each person only teaches every other week. Anders, Katie, and Morgan have volunteered for next year. We are grateful for their willingness and energy. We still need two more teachers as Mabel and Anne are both stepping down and moving on to other responsibilities with Wy'east. (Thank you Mabel and Anne for your generous contributions of time and care to our Wy'east community over the years!) No prior teaching experience is needed as we will be using already-developed curricula, and Marcia will be supporting all of the teachers. Marcia is also arranging for us to attend a district-sponsored RE teacher training module in August or September. If you are interested, please let Marcia know.

Another goal for next year is to work towards "Safe Congregations" practices. One aspect of meeting this standard is requiring all of our RE teachers to have criminal background checks and sign a code of ethics. Wy'east will cover these costs. Having a second adult per class is also a part of establishing a "Safe Congregation," and to this end, Marcia will be establishing a

"Host" program of volunteer adults who will attend RE classes as a support person to the teacher. If you can't commit to being a teacher, please consider being a volunteer helper some Sundays.

In addition to these new teaching structures, we are considering many ways that our older kids and adults can become more involved with UU philosophy, as well as opportunities for bringing it alive in our daily journeys. Classes or workshops we are exploring include:

- Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education for high school students.
- A basic parenting class to be offered by Lynn Bacon, a long time religious educator in local churches. This class will focus on setting limits in a loving way.
- Living by Heart, a class offered monthly for a year, which deals with acquiring the practice of quieting yourself in meditation with nature, just 10 minutes a day.
- A "Welcoming Congregation" class, as we have many new people who never went through this course on warmly welcoming gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folks in our midst.
- A small group program, "Understanding Your Racism," which may include working with a team of mediators during some sessions.

- Our new minister, Susan Maginn, will bring some additional interests, which may include a Buddhist sitting meditation group and a class on Building Your Own Theology. Possibilities abound!

And, in our more immediate future, the LRE committee is gearing up for the children's summer program, affectionately known as "Wy'camp." Wy'camp is a casual gathering of kids of all ages (except for infants and toddlers who stay in the nursery with a caregiver) that replaces more formal RE Classes. Adults, older youth and families take turns leading Wy'camp activities while services are going on. Please select a Sunday or two to share an activity you enjoy with our young people. If you need a little inspiration, Karla can give you some ideas! Look for the sign-up sheet during social hours and potlucks. Wy'camp will run for 10 weeks, from July 6 through September 9.

Your Lifespan Religious Education committee awaits your input and the unique gifts you could bring to our program.

In faith,

Marcia Stanard
LRE Coordinator
and Karla
Committee Chair ♦

UU Adventures in Eating



Join us for our **First Sunday Supper** on June 3 after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share. June 10 is our **Second Sunday Soup**. Bring a vegetable to church and drop it off in the basket by the entrance before the service starts. Mark will use it to prepare a tasty vegetarian soup to be enjoyed after the service. Contributions of bread and salad are also welcome. On June 17 after church and social hour, we'll head out for another **Restaurant Adventure**, location to be announced. If you'd like to join in, please tell Tode that day. Tode will get a count and call ahead so our table will be ready for us. We will hold a special **Farewell Potluck for Cecilia** on Friday, June 29. See page 3 for the details. The potluck will replace the July 1st First Sunday Supper. However, on July 1st, there will be a **Farewell Reception for Cecilia** in Hyde Hall immediately following the service. ♦

Book Nook

This column is for sharing books, movies, or other discoveries with fellow Wy'easters. Recommendations from all ages are welcomed.

From Betsy:

The Faith Club, by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver & Priscilla Warner. These women (Muslim, Christian, and Jewish) became acquainted when one of them was asked to write a children's book on the three faiths. She asked for help from the others, as she felt unable to do this work alone. All are concerned about what to tell their own children in these difficult times. They meet many times and exchange beliefs and feelings. These thoughts are recorded as they go along, by each woman in turn, showing all the difficulties and rewards of their efforts together, overcoming unrecognized prejudices and concepts even regarding their own faiths, and evolving through time toward wider understanding. This book is now well known and very rewarding to read.

Where There's a Will. John Mortimer, of Rumpole fame, asks, at the age of 81, what he should pass on to the next generation. Witty and wise, Mortimer roams his life experiences and wide knowledge of literature, theatre, politics – and just about everything. This is a small gem to keep at your bedside to retrieve your ability to chuckle at life.

The People's Republic of Desire, by Annie Wong. This humorous fictional tale of young women in today's big city China blew me away. Status chasing, Starbuck's Coffee, makeup, fashions for young women trying to make professional careers and find men (Caucasian or Asian?) Men are in this story too. Wealth is attainable for those in the right businesses (usually connected with export). The protagonist and several good women friends, who have all spent time overseas for education, thus not really fitting into either world, try to work out their lives. You won't believe this book! I felt I had to jump a few centuries to believe it. (All books are available at a Multnomah County Library.) ♦

Newsletter News

Please note that, for summertime, we will be combining the July and August newsletters, so articles and calendar items for both months are due by 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13. Send submissions to co-editors Laura and Abbie at wyeast-news-editor@holycow.portland.or.us.

We encourage one and all (kids too!) to contribute – perhaps a recommendation for a book or movie, some original artwork or poetry, thoughts on an experience that was meaningful to you, or personal news and milestones, such as we share with each other during Joys and Concerns each week.

June Office Hours and Bag Lunches

Cecilia will hold her usual bag lunch get-togethers from noon to 1 on Wednesdays, June 6, 13, and 27th. All are welcome to share in the good company and conversation over lunch. Rich (or Cecilia) will be in the office from 1-3 p.m. on most Wednesdays: June 6, 20, and 27th. If you have questions or church business, please call (503) 777-3704 during these hours. ♦

Denominational Doings

General Assembly is nearly here! For those who are new among us, GA (as we call it) is a huge gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across the country (with lots of visitors from other countries). There are workshops, worship services and lectures on every kind of topic, plus wonderful musical offerings, dances and more. Some of the workshops are about "how to do church" but many are about more personal spirituality or about social justice issues.

The full program is posted at: <http://www.uua.org/documents/gaoffice/program.pdf>.

Highlights this year include a panel discussion on government secrecy, hosted by Amy Goodman and including Daniel Ellsberg and Mike Gravel, and a

lecture by Ben Cohen of Ben and Jerry's.

While you must register for General Assembly (and can do so online at www.uua.org), there are some open (free) events: The biggest is the closing worship, on Sunday, June 24. Wy'east will not hold services that evening, so that we can gather with 5,000 other Unitarian Universalists in a truly stellar worship experience. There are two other open events. Thursday night is the Service of the Living Tradition, which commemorates ministry and honors those who are entering fellowship, retiring ministers, and those who have died. The preaching is always excellent – about this faith of ours and how we might live it.

Saturday night is the historic Ware Lecture, in the past given by such notables as Martin Luther King and other great leaders. This year the lecture is given by Dr. Rashid Khalidi, author of Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East. Khalidi holds the Edward Said Chair in Arab Studies at Columbia University, where he heads the Middle East Institute. You may recognize him; Professor Khalidi has been a regular guest on numerous radio and TV shows, including All Things Considered, Talk of the Nation, Morning Edition, NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, and Nightline.

Check it all out on the web, and talk to Barbara if you'd like to

be a delegate (to vote on denominational business on Wy'east's behalf). ♦

Pilgrimage to the Unitarian Homelands of Transylvania

Early October 2007
Trip Leader Cecilia Kingman Miller

Journey deep into the heart of Unitarian history and the birthplace of religious freedom. Travel with UUs from around the U.S., under the leadership of experienced local guides and Project Harvest Hope staff. Enjoy legendary village hospitality. Witness the traditional way of life preserved by our brothers and sisters in faith, as you live in the homes of local families and work alongside our project partners. Seminars led by local scholars and experts will include religious and cultural history, sustainable agriculture and globalization, post-communist economics and development, and women's and children's issues. Worship and reflection, feasting, singing and dancing—all are shared on this transformative journey.

All proceeds benefit Project Harvest Hope's efforts to protect the Unitarian homelands in Transylvania. For more information and a trip application, visit www.projectharvesthope.org. ♦

OofS=order of service

June 2007 — Calendar of Events

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

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>4pm Family Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 6:00pm Potluck</p>	4	5	6	7	1	2
		7pm Worship Committee	10am OofS Deadline 12pm Lunch with Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hours		8	9
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>4pm Family Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm Hymn Sing 5pm Service 6pm Soup Supper</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
			10am OofS Deadline 12pm Lunch with Cecilia 1-3pm NO OFFICE HOURS 7pm Newsletter Deadline 7 pm Board Meeting			
<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>4pm Youth Ensemble 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour 7pm Restaurant Adventure</p>	18	19	20	21	22	23
			10am OofS Deadline 12pm NO BAG LUNCH 1-3pm Office Hours	→→→→	→→→→→	→→→→→→→
			GENERAL ASSEMBLY			
<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>4:00-6pm Closing Service at General Assembly, at the Oregon Convention Center</p>	25	26	27	28	29	30
<u>July 1st</u>			10am OofS Deadline 12pm Lunch w. Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hours		6:30pm Farewell Potluck for Cecilia	
<p>4pm Family Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 6pm Farewell Reception for Cecilia</p>						

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Return Service Requested