



WY'EAST NEWS AND NOTES

WY'EAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

MARCH 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

March 4 WITH GIFTS LIKE THESE

What if we had the power to change the world? Would we? Perhaps we have the gifts, already at the ready, to create the change we want to see. Cecilia Kingman Miller will be in our pulpit.

Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.

Religious Education (Grades Pre-K-5) Downstairs during worship, but children attend the beginning of the service.

Middle School Religious Education "Journey Toward Wholeness" anti-racism class, during the service.

First Sunday Supper – Bring a potluck dish to share. We'll also discuss our long-range vision for Wy'east.

March 11 THE COST OF SILENCE

Our Religious Education Coordinator, Marcia Stanard, handles an adult topic today as she preaches on the genocide in Darfur. Come hear how you can make a difference and why it's so important to act.

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

Religious Education (Grades Pre-K-5) Downstairs during worship, but children attend the beginning of the service.

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

March 18 GATHER HERE IN ONE STRONG BODY

District General Assembly Coordinator, Judi McGavin, will speak about why we gather and why it is important. The service will feature the lighting of the actual chalice used at General Assembly.

Vocal Skills Class at 3:45 p.m.

Religious Education (Grades Pre-K-5) Downstairs during worship, but children attend the beginning of the service.

Middle School Religious Education "Journey Toward Wholeness" anti-racism class, during the service.

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

March 25 TRYING TO GET HOME

Who among us has not been lost from time to time, longing to find the path? In story and song we'll ponder the way home, and ask whether a church can be a home for those who seek. Bring a friend!

Cecilia Kingman Miller will be in our pulpit.

Religious Education (Grades Pre-K-5) Downstairs during worship, but children attend the beginning of the service.

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

AND ONE SATURDAY

March 17 "OUR LUCKY DAY" ANNUAL CANVASS DINNER

Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, downstairs at Waverly UCC, for dinner, entertainment for children and adults, fellowship, a reprise of last year's "hymnboree," and the opportunity to pledge our support to Wy'east for 2007-2008. Childcare will be provided. Y'all come!

Cecilia's Corner



What is the purpose of church? Why do we come together each week? Perhaps you come for community; enjoying the friends you have made here. Perhaps you come to be uplifted, and strengthened in your daily life. Perhaps you come because one day your four year old asked some really hard questions about life, about death, and you realized you wanted some help in raising that child into a good and wise adult. Perhaps you come because the music inspires you, or because you need the deep silence, or perhaps you come simply because this is a place where you are known.

These are all good reasons to come to church. But are these reasons *the purpose* of the church? Yes, partly...

In the study of systematic theology, there are five questions. My favorite was always the fourth: What is the purpose of the church? And the answer, in nearly every denomination, is ultimately something like this: To transform ourselves, that we might transform the world. As a church, we are concerned with the widest possible definition of community, the broadest understanding of justice and mercy, the deepest search for what is good and true and right. We come to church, not to be served, but to find our path of service. Not just to heal ourselves, but to offer healing outward into a

hurting world. Not only to raise our own children, but to seek justice and compassion for all children.

And this is why we come together. *This is the purpose of church.* Our mission is to live our faith so boldly and brightly that others are invited in, and find their own healing, and begin to offer their gifts to the world. This is an exciting time in the life of this church, as you search for a new minister and begin to consider your future plans. So much is unfolding, in this springtime blooming. And your future is blooming brightly forth, as well.

On March 17, Wy'east members and friends will come together for the annual Pledge Dinner, to offer financial pledges for the coming church year. These gifts create the work of the church. These gifts educate our children and ourselves, speak out for the earth and all her creatures, and welcome the stranger in a time of need. With these gifts Wy'east becomes a beacon for liberal religious values right here in Portland's eastside.

I hope you will find this act of giving exciting, knowing that your dollars create a loving, peaceful, justice-seeking community. I hope that your own generosity will inspire you, and embolden you, and strengthen your own heart.

In faith,

Cecilia

From the Search Committee

By the time you read this, the Search Committee will be waist-deep in the search process.

We received the names and resumes of several ministers in the middle of February. We then interviewed several of them extensively at an undisclosed location. We also arranged to see them give sermons in other churches.

Once we have seen all the candidates, we will pick one candidate to present to the congregation. We will choose the minister who fits us best: someone whose strengths fit our needs, and whose needs fit our strengths. The congregation will have the opportunity to meet this person over several days. There will be a meeting of the board and other committee chairs. There will be a potluck dinner, maybe even two! And there will be a Sunday worship service, hopefully in late April, conducted by our ministry candidate.

I hope everyone can attend that worship service, to get a feel for this person, because immediately after that worship we hold a congregational meeting. Our bylaws require 40% of our members to be present at the meeting, a fairly high number. And to call the candidate to become our minister, we need to have an affirmative vote of 80% or more. (It's best to start a ministry off with a strong level of support.)

I realize that one worship service and a few meetings is not much time. However, I know that in our interviews, while we will inspect credentials, check references, and ask probing questions, I'll be listening to my gut. I expect to recommend to the congregation the person who speaks best to my inner light of good and truth. (There are 4 other people on the Committee, and I'm glad that their

Search Committee cont.

instincts will illuminate other facets of the candidates.)

Thank you to those who have brought us your concerns about this process. Please continue to do so. I am joined on the Committee by Rich H., Mabel P., Debra T. and Harold W.

Anders L.
Search Committee Chair ♦



From the Board

The Board devoted February's meeting to long range planning for Wy'east. This is an essential function for a growing congregation, and it is important to get this process underway again. The meeting was announced in the newsletter and open to all. Ten people attended - there are only four on the Board - a good showing and also a good cross-section of our congregation's members. There were representatives there from the Music, Ministerial Relations, Religious Education, Search, Worship, and Membership Committees.

Targets for the next five years were proposed, and decided upon by consensus. The areas looked at were our budget; membership; religious education attendance; adult attendance in Sunday services; staffing levels for the Director of Religious

Education, the Minister; and office support; how frequently to meet about long range planning; where Wy'east might be housed within the next five years, given our current growth rate and need for our own space; social justice activities and frequency; diversity in all categories; and outreach and publicity.

Here are some of the 5 year goals: continued vibrant, lively worship and social activities, 4 Social Justice Saturday community service events in addition to our special collections; a ¾ time Minister, a ½ time Director of Religious Education, and a ¼ time office staff person; worship, religious education, and office space that is big enough, with some room to grow, and that we control; 10 adult religious education, music, and affinity group activities per year; two community outreach events and a compelling web presence; increasing our diversity to match the community we serve; and 68 adults and 30 children in church each Sunday on average, with 84 adult members.

And here are some of the intermediate milestones: an updated website later this year, Welcoming Congregation Certification from the UUA by next year, 10% per year growth in membership and worship attendance, 15% per year growth in children's religious education attendance with 4 Sunday RE classes in 2009-2010, beginning the search for a larger space next year with a projected move the following year, one Social Justice Saturday event next year and two in 2009-2010, and increasing numbers of long range planning meetings to twice in 2008-2009 and four 2011-2012.

This conversation will be continued at the First Sunday Potluck on March 4. Everyone in the congregation will have the opportunity to comment on the 5-year goals and on the intermediate milestones, and to propose new or different goals and milestones. If we are going to build the congregation we all want to be a part of, then we need to know where we are going and how to get there together.

And, while we are at it, here are a few more important dates to put on your calendar:

- Saturday, March 17, 6-9 p.m. Annual Congregational Dinner
- Sunday, April 1, 6:15 p.m. Preliminary Budget Meeting and decision to go ahead with calling a minister
- Sunday, April 8, 5:00 p.m. Tenth Anniversary of Wy'east Charter Sunday
- Sunday, April 15 or Sunday, April 22, 6:15p.m. Candidate Sunday and Congregational Meeting to vote to call the selected candidate.

Barbara S.-T., Board Moderator, and Mark A., Board Vice-Moderator ♦

Music Matters



The song *Amazing Grace* has been receiving a lot of press lately. Its author, John Newton, a repentant slave trader, gave voice to his gratitude in this hymn for the grace of God when a powerful storm that threatened to sink his ship suddenly dissipated in response to

Music Matters cont.

his prayer. Mr. Newton turned his life around at this climactic moment, leaving behind the trade of human lives for life as a priest, and as an advocate for abolition. He was a mentor for William Wilberforce, who, at the age of 21, joined the British Parliament and sponsored a very unpopular bill to end slave trade. After many years of coalition building, Wilberforce eventually prevailed.

On February 18th, Wy'east joined in the spirit of community with thousands of congregations to commemorate 200 years since the Parliament of the United Kingdom signed the Act that marked the beginning of the end of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. At the same time, we must recognize that millions of exploited men, women and children live under the conditions of slavery today. You can learn more at www.setallfree.net.

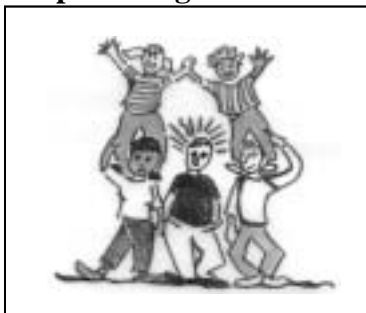
I do hope that you will take the opportunity to see the movie "Amazing Grace." I found it to be a poignant reminder of how powerful we actually can be as individuals when we have the courage to act on our convictions.

On a personal note, I enjoyed working with the Wy'east Chamber Players and the Wy'east Family Choir to craft an arrangement of *Amazing Grace* that would integrate the wonderful resources we have within our walls. The addition of the congregational chorus made this a memorable event. I thank each of you for being a vital part of our music program.

Linda Jo R.
Music Director ♦

LRE

Lifespan Religious Education



Musings from Marcia

Will March roar in like a lion? As I type this at the end of February, that much is unknown. What I do know for sure is that it will be another exciting month in the Religious Education program! We have four classes now that Anne D's middle school class is up and running. They meet on alternate weeks and are focusing on anti-racism and anti-oppression work, with March bringing a focus on Asian-American cultures.

Mabel and her preschool & kindergarten class have begun a study of the five senses, while my 1st-4th grade class continues to learn about our UU principles. Our youth group, Morgan and Stefan, are just beginning to work through a curriculum called Articulating Your UU Faith. This study will culminate with a special worship service in May when they will become members of our church and will speak about their own beliefs. These dedicated youth inspire me.

Another exciting event coming up in March is the Annual Canvass Dinner. On Our Lucky Day, March 17th, we will have an opportunity to gather to celebrate our congregation and its future by sharing our financial pledges. Besides professional ministerial leadership, pledges support our

active and growing RE program. Wy'east is reaching out to many people, including families who value religious education opportunities for their children and youth. Thriving classes for children, youth, and adults offer a vitality to our congregation that will help us grow in faith, as well as in numbers. I hope to see all of you there on the 17th.

So with all this talk of thriving classes, just what is it we're trying to accomplish in the RE program? Isn't it just a place for kids to go on Sunday evening so the adults can enjoy the service? No. What we're trying to do is so much more than that. With our classes, and the relationships we form with the children and youth, we are trying to convey our Unitarian Universalist liberal religious values. We want the kids to understand that our faith is not a wishy-washy feel good alternative to "real religion," but a solid faith tradition with historical Unitarians and Universalists to be proud of. That our values of appreciation for the web of life, the worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity and compassion in human relations, are exactly what this troubled world needs. Together, we talk about fairness, kindness, and justice. Together, we practice embracing diversity. Together, we talk about how to care for the planet and all its amazing creatures. Together, we build community.

Marcia S.
LRE Coordinator ♦

RE Notes from Karla

This winter Mark A. and Tode O. co-facilitated a 5-part class, UUs in American history II. All were impressed as they learned how UU principles are interwoven

LRE Karla cont.

in the fabric of our US government and national history. Mark said that, for example, “We learned that the phrase ‘government of, by, and for the people’ originated not with Abraham Lincoln, but with a Unitarian minister, Theodore Parker.” Join us for our next adult RE class, *Our Whole Lives*. (See next article for a description.).

Another opportunity to get involved in RE is through the popular “Wy’Camp” that we’ll be offering again this summer. “Wy’Camp” is a casual grouping of children of all ages, rather than formal classes. Different adults offer to teach/present/be involved with an activity or subject they enjoy and want to share with the children. We had a wonderful and diverse series of adult leaders and classes last summer thanks to so many and to Willow S. D. for being our coordinator. We are in need of a new coordinator to plan our 2007 Wy’Camp, and of course, Camp leaders as well. As you make your summer vacation plans, consider sharing what you love with eager young folks. Thanks for your part in making our congregation vibrant, as we learn with, and from, each other.

Karla D.
Committee Chair ◆

Our Whole Lives Class for Adults

Begins March 8th

Our 20-month-old, Hannah, has already discovered that Mom’s body is different from Dad’s. So Janelle and I have begun teaching her, in an age-appropriate way,

right along with animal names and basic shapes, that our sexuality is at once natural and ordinary, and also very special and sacred.

I don’t imagine it will be easy teaching Hannah about these issues. Our culture commoditizes sex, and floods us with distorted images of what is desirable. Gender stereotypes are pervasive. Battles are being fought over women’s right to reproductive control, gays’ right to marry, and children’s right to sensible sexuality education. Even for adults, aspects of sexuality are often confusing – and often negative.

Fortunately, the Unitarian Universalist Association, in partnership with the United Church of Christ, has developed a thoughtful curriculum on sexuality through the lifespan. What I like best about OWL for adults is that it gives us an opportunity to talk and learn about sex in a very positive setting – to celebrate the joy and passion and zing and sacred creative energy that is our sexuality, and to ground our beliefs and actions around it in our Unitarian Universalist values.

During this class, we’ll be frank and open, as well as respectful and sensitive – for many of us, our sexuality can have a very private side, and it is possible to fully participate without disclosing any more than you are comfortable disclosing. The class will include discussions and exercises about relationships, communication skills, spirituality, and our own sexuality, in a “safe” small group format.

We will meet eight Thursday evenings, in Hyde Hall, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., beginning March 8.

If you’d like to sign up, or have any questions, talk to facilitators Janelle S. and Sean B. on Sunday, or call them at the church office 503-777-3704. ◆

UU Adventures in Eating



Join us for our monthly **First Sunday Supper** on March 4, immediately after the service. Please bring a potluck dish to share. **Second Sunday Soup:** Bring a vegetable to church on March 11 and drop it off in the basket by the entrance before the service starts. Our soup chef extraordinaire Mark A. will use it to prepare a delicious vegetarian soup to be enjoyed after the service. Contributions of bread and salad are also welcome. ◆

Share a Meal – and Your Dreams for Wy’east

During the potluck on March 4th, we will have a discussion about the results of the long range planning session held in mid-February. Please join us and help to shape the vision of where Wy’east is going, and who we want to be. ◆

The Annual

Canvass Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 17, "Our Lucky Day," from 6 to 9 p.m.

Come for food, fellowship, entertainment, hymn singing, and an opportunity to help us find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. All members and friends of Wy'east are invited. There will be sign-up sheets at Sunday services on March 4 and March 11, or you can RSVP to the office at (503) 777-3704. See you there!

Practicing Radical Hospitality

One of the things that makes us special as a congregation is the way we do hospitality. Our potlucks, stone soup, and social hours provide us with time together feeding our bodies and our souls. They also provide us with the opportunity to really welcome visitors and friends. Unfortunately, making these social times happen has been slipping through the cracks. We need one or more people to organize the volunteers who make hospitality happen – and for all of us to put on a social hour from time to time. None of these are big jobs, but they really make a difference in the life of the congregation. Job descriptions are available. If you'd like to help make Wy'east a welcoming place that practices Radical Hospitality, please tell a board member (Anders, Barbara, Joanne, Mark – who are introduced at each service), or send an email

to: weast-board@holycow.portland.or.us. ♦

Open Your Home to Visiting UUs During GA (June 21-24)

I hate yard sales! Maybe you do too. But we need to have a fundraiser this year. Fortunately, General Assembly (the annual meeting for the Unitarian Universalist Association) in June offers us a golden (pun intended) opportunity. One housing option for GA will be home stays. For somewhat less than a hotel would cost, visiting UUs will have the option of staying at the home of a local UU (that's us), with all the money over and above the cost of providing breakfast coming to the congregation. If half a dozen of us put up one or two people for 4 nights, we can raise something like \$1,200 for Wy'east. If more of us do, we'll have a jump on next year's fundraising. It's also a great way to meet some out of town UUs. Please contact Barbara S.-T. at wyooffice@qwest.net or 503-777-3704 if you're interested in being a host. ♦

Lay Leader Training and Worship Retreat

Are you one of our regular Lay Leaders at Wy'east? Are you curious about being a Lay Leader or about any other aspect of worship? If so, you should come to the Lay Leader Training and Worship Retreat. This fun event will be held at church on Saturday, March 10, from 10:00 am to 2:00

p.m. Lunch will be provided along with a lively and interactive "playshop" about creating warm and inviting services. Your hosts are Cecilia Kingman Miller and the Worship Committee. ♦

Newsletter News

Articles for the April newsletter are due by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21st. Please send submissions to co-editors, Abbie W. & Laura R. at weast-news-editor@holycow.portland.or.us. We encourage anyone and everyone to contribute! ♦

New Office Hours

Starting March 7, Wy'east will have new office hours—on Wednesdays. Cecilia will hold her usual bag lunch from noon to 1, and Rich Hines, our wonderful office volunteer, will be in from 1-3 p.m. If you have questions or church business, please call (503) 777-3704 during these hours. ♦

Denominational Doings

With the coming of General Assembly and the opportunity for fellowship and fun in various summer camps for both youth and adults, we have a wealth of announcements. Read on ...

Speaking of **General Assembly**, it's not too late to sign up to **volunteer** at this year's gathering, (at the Convention Center June 21-24.) Jobs include greeting people, providing advice about the area,

assisting UUs with disabilities, caring for kids, and counting votes. Volunteers who work 16 hours in the children's program or 24 hours *Denominational Doings GA cont.*

in other roles, receive a free registration. Applications are due by March 31st. For details, contact Rosie H. at (503) 293-5453 or rosiephilH@msn.com. ♦

Michael Servetus UU Fellowship in Vancouver, WA is offering a **pre-General Assembly workshop** on Sunday, March 4 from 1-2:30 p.m. The session will be especially useful to people who have never been to a GA, helping you make the most of your experience. ♦

Eliot Institute UU summer camp. What if there was a UU summer camp where children gathered under a tree to hear volunteers read aloud? Where live music around a campfire was a nightly activity? Where afternoon choices included the beach, games and art for all ages, or simply relaxing in the sun? Where children are engaged in fun programs while adults discuss interesting themes? Well, there is! Visit EliotInstitute.org or call (206) 374-2497 to learn about UU camps on Hood Canal in WA and Lake Okanogan in BC. ♦

The **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** will hold a **JustWorks Camp** in Clinton, OK March 18-24. Join 15 adults (18 or older) for a work camp at the first burial site being completed for Native American ancestral remains. This project is part of a national effort to repatriate and honorably bury these remains, from museums and other institutions, which have no records to identify them by tribe or location. Participants will plant native plants, paint fences and

buildings, build trails, and do data entry. There is a strong educational component to this week, with presentations by tribal leaders on the history and culture of the Cheyenne people, and the repatriation efforts of tribes nationally; field trips; and evening sessions with artists and native plant experts. For an application, go to www.uusc.org. The Bellingham, WA Unitarian Fellowship initiated this work camp. Contact Beth B.: bethbrownf@aol.com. ♦

Learning and Fellowship Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults

Groundwork Anti-Oppression Training will take place at University Unitarian Church in Seattle, WA, from March 2-4. The workshop will help participating young adults:

- * Educate ourselves and our community about oppression,
- * Prioritize spiritual reflection and development, and learn how to better live our UU principles, and
- * Create anti-oppression/anti-racist transformation personally, institutionally, and culturally.

Registration forms are available at: <http://www.pnwd.org/pdfs/YAgroundwork.pdf>. ♦

Youth Spring "Superheroes" Conference (Con) 2007, Visioning for the Future, at Camp Killoqua, Stanwood, WA, March 23-25, 2007. This "Con" is for UU high school youth, ages 14-20, who are active in a BC or Pacific NW District (PNWD) congregation. Superheroes are ordinary people who do extraordinary things! As a group of Super Youth, we have the awesome opportunity to be part of the planning for the future of YRUU (Young Religious UUs).

People from throughout the UUA and PNWD are visiting on Saturday to listen to our desires and concerns about future activities as UU youth.

Registration: No forms will be accepted after March 19th. Registration is first come first served and space is limited to 200 people. No Walk-ins will be allowed. If you arrive without having registered, you will be sent home at your expense. Mail registrations to: Jenell DeMatteo, District Registrar PNWD, PO Box 84, Chimacum, WA 98325, or dematteo@olypen.com. You'll receive a confirmation email including site and con rules, directions, and what to bring. If you do not receive confirmation by March 20th, please call or email your registrar. **Costs:** \$100 if postmarked after March 1st. Make checks and money orders payable to: PNWD-UUA. (Please put Youth Spring CON 2007 in the notation.) **Questions or Concerns:** Monica P., registrar, 9201 65th St Ct W, Tacoma, WA 98467, (253) 230-2253 or mightymo15@nventure.com. ♦

Hello Young Adults! We'd like to invite you to the **RockOn Spring Young Adult Conference 2007**, for UUs between the ages of 18-35. The "Con" will be March 30-April 1 in Gold Bar, WA, at the beautiful Camp Huston. The weekend will include worship, arts, singing, silence, workshops, a talent-optional show, rock star themed dance, outdoor activities, campfires and discussions. General Registration is \$50. The Deadline is March 20th and NO ONSITE registrations will be accepted. For details and a registration form, see: www.pnwd.org/pdfs/YAcon_spr07.pdf. If you have questions, contact the staff at RockOnCon07@gmail.com.

Please share this announcement
with friends, campus ministries,
and young adult groups as you see
fit. I hope to see you there!
Leanne T. (Dean) ♦

OofS=order of service

March 2007 — Calendar of Events

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat.
			(February 2007)	1	2	3
			10am OofS Deadline			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 5pm Middle School RE 6pm Potluck & Planning		7pm Worship Committee Meeting	10am OofS Due 12pm Lunch w. Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hrs. 7pm Membership Comm.	7-8:30pm Our Whole Lives		10am-2pm Lay Leader Training
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
4pm Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm Hymn Sing 5pm Service 6pm Soup Supper			10am OofS Due 12pm Lunch with Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hrs. 7pm RE Comm. Meeting	7-8:30pm Our Whole Lives		6-9pm Annual Canvass Dinner
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
3:45pm Vocal Skills 5pm Service 5pm Middle School RE 6pm Social Hour			10am OofS Due 12pm Lunch w. Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hrs. 6pm Newsltr. Deadline 7 pm Board Mtg.	7-8:30pm Our Whole Lives		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
5pm Service 6pm Social Hour			10am OofS Due 12pm Lunch w. Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hrs.	7-8:30pm Our Whole Lives		

503-777-3704

wyoffice@qwest.net

<http://weeast.pnwd.uua.org>



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Return Service Requested