



# WY' EAST NEWS AND NOTES

WY' EAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

MAY 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

### May 6 ERUPTIONS OF THE SPIRIT

Throughout human history, individuals just living their lives have made observations that re-shape our collective consciousness and open new doors of insight. These eruptions of the spirit, while rare, are always important to celebrate. Rev. David Maynard will be in the pulpit.

*Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.*

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

*Information Session on Annual Meeting Agenda 6:00 p.m. Get informed before voting on May 20.*

*First Sunday Supper – Bring a potluck dish to share following the information session.*

### May 13 MOTHER: MUSE, MYTH AND MEMORY

In history, mothers have gained both credit and blame for the complicated duty of childrearing. Considered unnecessary in some eras and saintly in others, our social and personal views of mothers are often complicated, and worthy of reflection and celebration. Cecilia Kingman Miller will be in the pulpit.

*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.*

*Middle School Religious Education Wrap-up of Journey Towards Wholeness class, during the service.*

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

### May 20 PROFESSION OF BELIEFS

As members of a non-creedal religion, Unitarian Universalists often struggle to express what we believe. Today, high school youth, Morgan and Stefan, take on that challenge as they share their beliefs and become members of our congregation. Religious Education Coordinator, Marcia Stanard, will lead this service, with the assistance of the youth group.

*Vocal Skills Class at 3:45 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, before we begin the Annual Meeting.*

*Annual Meeting 6:15 p.m. to vote on Board and Nominating positions, our budget, and by-laws changes.*

### May 27 A MILLION YOUNG GHOSTS SHOUT

In 1915, Carl Sandburg wrote a scathing poem on the young lives lost to war. As we turn toward the fifth summer of the war in Iraq, what answer can we give the poet? What is our responsibility to the young men and women serving in this war? Cecilia Kingman Miller will be in the pulpit.

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

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

*Restaurant Adventure – 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced during social hour.*

## Cecilia's Corner



It seems amazing to say, but I am coming to the end of my time with you! My last Sunday will be July 1, and that is fast approaching. It is exciting to see the culmination of our two years of work. I feel a great sense of excitement for your future.

In these next few months, we will prepare for your transition to a new minister, and work to be sure that change goes smoothly. Ministerial transitions are important work in the life of the church, and we want to do this well. In church we remember that all the goodbyes of our lives are practice for that final goodbye. From the time we are small and our parents leave us with a sitter, through our growing years when we say goodbye to home, or end relationships, then as we see our own children leave the nest, and finally when we come to the end of our lives and say goodbye to our physical strength and face other losses, each of these is simply a rehearsal for that last goodbye when we come to our deaths. And so, knowing this, we take special care to learn the art of good goodbyes.

How do we make a goodbye good? We prepare for it. We name the approaching loss, rather than avoid it. We stay in the moment of transition, rather than distracting ourselves with other things. Sometimes we have to remember to finish one thing before beginning another.

When we are saying goodbye to a person, we say the things we need to say, whether they be words of gratitude or apology. If we have amends to make, we make them. We celebrate the joys of the relationship, and honor the path we have walked together. Finally, when the moment comes to let go, we truly let go, and step through the door of loss into whatever is to come after.

I will be doing all of these things with you as we go through these next two months. I am sad to be leaving you, and also excited about what lies ahead for both of us. I have work left to do at Wy'east, and will try to stay focused, as I hope you will also. I will speak words of gratitude to so many of you, and seek forgiveness where I have erred. There will be ample time to rejoice together, and to say our goodbyes. And then, when July 1 arrives, I will go from you with great hope for your future and a deep and lasting joy in all we have shared.

Let's begin our goodbye-ing!

In faith,  
*Cecilia*

## An Invitation to Cecilia's Ordination

All Wy'east members and friends are invited to celebrate the Ordination of Cecilia Kingman Miller to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry.

First Unitarian Church  
1011 S.W. Twelfth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon  
June 18, 2007  
7:00 p.m.



## From the Board

The church year is coming to a close and the board is already starting to think about next year. A bridging ceremony is being planned for our graduating high school seniors, and our youth group is planning to give us a special service in May – both signs that this year is nearly over. The folks in religious education are starting to organize this summer's Wy'camp for our children. Please let Karla know if you have some special activity that you would like to share with our children one Sunday this summer.

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## *From the Board, Continued*

As I write this column, plans are being made for Susan Maginn's visit to Wy'east for Candidating Weekend on April 26-29. By the time you read this column, we may already know the results of the congregational vote on April 29 to call Susan to our pulpit on August 1. Thanks to those who asked for extra time for informal conversation with Susan. It's a good idea. And thanks to the Search Committee for their hard work and for the successful outcome of that hard work.

The Board is preparing for the Annual Meeting after the service on May 20. Items on the agenda will include electing a new Board and Nominating Committee, approving the budget for fiscal year 2007-2008, and changing the by-laws. There will be an informational meeting between the service and the potluck on May 6 to talk about these agenda items. This year the Board plans to mail materials to all members prior to the informational meeting. Look for a letter from us the week of May 1.

And next year? Thanks to the congregation's wonderful response to our request for extra pledges to cover the costs of ministry and religious education, next year we will have the professional leadership we need to continue to grow in programs and in membership. Henceforth, we should call April 1, 2007 "Miracle

Sunday!" We have also heard from the Pacific Northwest Unitarian Universalist Growth Foundation. Because we stepped up with increased pledges, they have given us the \$3,000 grant we requested and have authorized a loan to us of up to \$12,000.

But church is so much more than writing checks and coming to services on Sundays. You will get so much more from Wy'east if you participate in other parts of the life of the congregation. Sing in the choir. Help out in children's religious education. Take an adult religious education class. Serve on a committee. Usher at a Sunday service. Do dishes after a potluck. You will get to know people and gain the satisfaction of knowing that you help make this special community happen. Think about how your talents can be used to create the congregation you want to be a part of. Then, let someone on the Board or a committee chairperson know that you are available.

It's going to be another exciting year in the life of the community we call Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation. I'm glad to have you all on this journey with me.

Barbara  
Board Moderator ♦

## Music Matters



Carpe diem! We've heard it so many times, yet even golden opportunities can slip through our fingers if we don't recognize them.

One weekend in April such a chance nearly slipped by me. Chanticleer, that phenomenal men's vocal ensemble from San Francisco, was in town for a Friday night concert. Well, it sounded tempting, but I was tired, I didn't have a babysitter, and the tickets were expensive. Unbeknownst to me, the concert was already sold out. Had I known that, I wouldn't have even ventured out. Had it not been for the support and encouragement of my spouse, I would have missed a transformative experience.

As it turns out, there were some tickets available at the door. The husband of the woman sitting next to me, for example, had opted to go to a soccer game instead. It was amazing to be in a room filled with such ardent fans of these twelve men, singing love songs through the ages in seamless harmony, with voices ranging from bass to soprano. It reinforced for me that each of us has a unique voice, and it is such a gift.

The next morning, dressed for gardening, supportive spouse

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## *Music Matters, Continued*

casually remarks, “I hear Chanticleer is holding a master class this morning at 11.” I look at my watch; it’s 9:45. Miraculously, I soon found myself in a church sanctuary humming with excitement as two student choirs prepared to sing for the masters.

The members of Chanticleer, as well as their artistic director, Joseph Jennings, offered encouragement and direction to the choirs after each performance. Their points were simple and clear. The ones that stood out for me? Be connected with the other singers, let your song tell a story to the listener, emote through your eyes, and share your joy when you sing.

Later that evening, I found myself at St. Philip Neri Church, soaking in the sounds of “And on Earth, Peace,” A Chanticleer Mass. Although I was only vaguely familiar with the form and content of a mass, the musical experience transcended the text, and the variety of musical forms used in the work invoked something beyond understanding, something that people have been attempting to grasp throughout history.

What a weekend. I am so glad that I found the energy to go out the door that Friday evening and seize the day!

In harmony,

Linda Jo  
Music Director ♦

## **LRE**

### **Lifespan Religious Education**



### **Musings from Marcia**

May is here! What an exciting time. Summer is just around the corner, and it’s not too early to be thinking about next year. Have you ever considered teaching in our RE program? We need several teachers to spend time with our growing population of kids. Ideally, we will have teaching teams at each level: preschool and kindergarten, lower elementary, and upper elementary/middle school youth. Moving to team teaching will allow each teacher to have every second or third Sunday off to attend the service.

We are trying hard next year to have more than one adult in each classroom each week. This is an important practice for safe congregations. One way to accomplish this is to arrange for one teacher and one “host” each Sunday evening. The host is only in the classroom as a helper. Being a host may be a good choice for people who want to work with our kids, but who are unsure about committing to teaching.

It’s also important to realize that RE teachers do not need to have teaching experience. We will provide a curriculum for you to follow, as well as training sponsored by the district. Staff from the district are planning a local teacher training for August or September. If you have any interest in this meaningful ministry to children and youth, please speak to me soon.

If you have youth who are graduating from high school this year who are interested in our special “bridging” ceremony (marking their transition into adulthood), please contact me ASAP at the Wy’east office. Our bridging service will be on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, I want to invite you to be sure to attend church on May 20<sup>th</sup>. On this day, we will have a special service honoring members of our youth group, Morgan and Stefan, as they make the adult commitment of membership in our congregation. Additionally, at this time they will share credo statements that they have written. Please come and honor these youth as they make this statement about the importance of our UU faith in their lives.

Marcia Stanard  
LRE Coordinator ♦

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## **RE Notes from Karla**

The LRE committee would like to thank Waverly UCC for their wonderful revitalization of the church classrooms! Karen was our contact person and team worker as Barbara and I had a chance to move out our RE items (and learn how many good things we have on hand.) We had a second chance to work with Karen as we moved our RE materials back into the classrooms. Thank you Karen for your guidance and collaborative work ethic. We enjoyed your enthusiasm and energy to create a loving learning place for children and their teachers. If you haven't had a chance to see the transformation yet, come and take a peek.

Speaking of our sparkling new spaces for kids, quality Nursery/Childcare is available from 3:45 each Sunday afternoon until 6:30 p.m. after church. (Care-givers are interviewed, have a criminal background check and sign our Code of Ethics.) This extra childcare time gives parents a chance to be involved in adult conversations, which many parents of young children are eager for. The children also have an enjoyable time playing together. We are still, however, looking for a caring adult or responsible pair of teens to consistently provide this childcare year-round. Recently, parents have been taking turns covering their own, and others', children in the Nursery. RE has

the money allotted to pay for regular Nursery childcare. The LRE Committee wants our children to have a great experience and we want parents to be able to attend services and interact with other adults. Any suggestions? Can you help out, or do you know someone who would be a great fit for this job?

For slightly older kids on up, "Wy'Camp," a casual grouping of all ages to participate in fun activities together, will be starting up again in June, and continuing for 10 weeks. Wy'Camp happens each Sunday in the summer during services, replacing formal RE classes. Each week, families, adults or older youth share their interests and favorite pastimes with the group, everything from music to ice cream. As you plan your summer calendar, be sure to set aside at least one Sunday evening when you (or you and your family) will lead Wy'Camp. You can then sign up at church or contact me with your preferred date and choice of activity for sharing. Wy'Campers always appreciate your efforts and organizers comment on how much fun it was to be a camp counselor for a day!

In addition to our lively RE classes for children and youth, this spring we offered Our Whole Lives (OWL) for Adults. OWL was faithfully attended and all took part in discussions and activities about relationships, communication skills, spirituality and sexuality, in a respectful small group format.

This is a valuable course at every age level. (We hope to be able to offer OWL for our middle and high school students in the fall.) Please let me know if you are interested in leading an RE class for adults this summer or next year. I have several ideas and curricula available if you're looking for inspiration.

Karla  
Committee Chair ♦

## Wy'east's Annual Meeting...

is set for May 20<sup>th</sup>, after the service at 6:15 p.m. The agenda will include: election of the 2007-08 Board and Nominating Committee, approval of 2007-08 budget, and by-laws changes.

A mailing will be sent out on May 1 with more details and there will be an informational session on May 6 between the service and the potluck.

Thanks for your attendance at both of these important meetings.

## UU Adventures in Eating



Please bring a potluck dish to share and join us for our monthly **First Sunday Supper** on May 6. But before the potluck, immediately after the service, we'll gather for an information session to prepare us all for voting at the Annual Meeting (see above). May 13 is **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 delicious vegetarian soup to be enjoyed after the service. Contributions of bread and salad are also welcome. On May 27 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. ♦

## Book Nook



This column is for sharing books, movies, or other

discoveries with fellow Wy'easters. Recommendations from all ages are welcomed.

### From Mabel Pool:

I recommend Leaving Church by Barbara Brown Taylor (Harper of San Francisco). I found this memoir in the Gresham library. Rev. Taylor reveals the reasons she left the Episcopal Church she served. She describes her struggles between church and her own personal relationship with God. Her writing is colorful, humorous and richly descriptive of parish life. She was widely acclaimed as a preacher, with a five-star rating.

Another book I borrowed from the library is See Jane Hit by James Garbarino, Ph.D., author of Lost Boys. Dr. Garbarino examines why girls are growing more violent and what we can do about it. He gives the history of girls' and women's assertiveness through their rise in sports and their new cultural-sexual equality. ♦

## Newsletter News

Articles for the June newsletter are due by 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16. Please send submissions to co-editors, and Laura and Abbie at [wyeast-newseditor@holycow.portland.or.us](mailto:wyeast-newseditor@holycow.portland.or.us).

We encourage one and all to contribute – perhaps a recommendation for a book or movie, or an experience that was meaningful to you. Also, if

there is interest, we may add a column "Among UUs" for our community to share personal news and milestones, such as during Joys and Concerns. ♦

## Last Chance to Help Wy'east by Hosting Visiting UUs During GA

Please remember that during General Assembly (the Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations) this June 20-24, we have a unique opportunity to reach out to others while also helping Wy'east. Turn your home into a "bed and breakfast" for UUs traveling to Portland to attend GA. Proceeds, minus your cost for breakfast if you like, will go to Wy'east. Perhaps your friends, family or neighbors would also be willing to participate. It's easy to be a host; it will bring in some needed revenue to help our congregation grow; and guaranteed, you'll meet some interesting people! If you're interested in being a host or have questions, contact James at: [james@holycow.portland.or.us](mailto:james@holycow.portland.or.us). ♦

## May Office Hours and Brown Bags

Cecilia will hold her usual brown bag get-togethers from noon to 1 on Wednesdays.

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### *Office Hours, Continued*

All are welcome to share in the good company and conversation over lunch. Rich will be in the office following each brown bag, from 1-3 p.m. If you have questions or church business, please call (503) 777-3704 during these hours. ♦

## Denominational Doings

Just a reminder to **register for General Assembly (GA)**, or to begin planning which days you'd like to attend. GA will take place at the Convention Center in Portland from June 20-24. For newcomers, General Assembly is the annual gathering of UUs from across the country. GA offers a time for fellowship with other UUs and learning opportunities (lots of great workshops), plus it's when our denomination makes official decisions. Go to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website for registration forms, preliminary event schedule, and other information: [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga). You may choose to attend all five days, or just one or two, and some events are free. ♦

## Job Opening in Vancouver for a Religious Educator

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in

Vancouver, WA has an opening for a director of religious education (DRE). If you know of a qualified individual (including yourself) who would like to help guide and influence this growing congregation, please contact the interim DRE, Lynne Bacon, at: [dre@msuuf.org](mailto:dre@msuuf.org), or check the website for more details: [www.msuuf.org](http://www.msuuf.org). ♦

## 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](http://www.projectharvesthope.org). ♦

## UU History for the Month of May

May was a big month for the founding fathers of American Unitarianism. On May 5, 1819 William Ellery Channing preached the sermon "Unitarian Christianity" at the ordination and installation of Jared Sparks at the First Independent Church of Baltimore. The sermon united religious liberals under the name "Unitarian," which they had previously avoided. On May 19, 1841 Theodore Parker preached "Discourse on the Transient and Permanent in Christianity" at the installation of Charles Shackford in South Boston, MA. According to Parker, the permanent contribution of Christianity was not its story but its ethical laws. And on May 14, 1849, Transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau published "Resistance to Civil Government." Martin Luther King Jr. said Thoreau's essay inspired the civil rights movement.

— *From This Day in Unitarian Universalist History* by Frank Schulman.

OofS=order of service

# May 2007 — Calendar of Events

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat.
		1 7pm Worship Committee	2 10am OofS Deadline 12pm Lunch w. Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hours	3	4	5
6 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 6pm Info. Session on Annual Meeting 6:30pm Potluck	7	8	9 10am OofS Deadline 12pm Lunch w. Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hours	10	11	12
13 4pm Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm Hymn Sing 5pm Service 5pm Middle School RE 6pm Soup Supper	14	15	16 10am OofS Deadline 12pm Lunch with Cecilia 1-3pm Office Hours 7pm Newsletter Deadline 7 pm Board Meeting	17	18	19
20 3:45pm Vocal Skills 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour 6:15pm Annual Meeting	21	22	23 10am OofS Deadline 1-3pm Office Hrs.	24	25	26
27 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour 7pm Restaurant Adven.	28	29	30 10am OofS Deadline 1-3pm Office Hrs.	31		

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Return Service Requested