



WY'EAST NEWS AND NOTES

WY'EAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

SEPTEMBER 2007

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

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

September 2 VESPERS SERVICE

Anders will lead this brief, informal service of readings and songs for all ages (on the church lawn, weather permitting). A potluck picnic will follow.

September 9 HOMECOMING SUNDAY

You are invited to bring a container of water from your summer experiences that will be combined with others' and used for important rituals throughout the year. This "Water Communion" ceremony is a time for us to reflect on how this summer has shaped our spirit as we enter into a new church year together. Rev. Susan Maginn will lead this service for all ages.

Choir Rehearsal: 4:00 p.m.

Religious Education: Children stay for entire service. Nursery care available for pre-schoolers and infants.

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

September 16 INTIMACY AND ULTIMACY

At the heart of our religion is the covenant – an expression of how we promise to interact with each other as a spiritual community. Rev. Susan Maginn will be introducing "Covenant Groups" (also known as Small Group Ministry) as a way for each of us to deepen our spiritual lives while building the mission of our congregation.

Choir Rehearsal: 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.

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

September 23 MY LIFE FLOWS ON IN ENDLESS SONG

Through poetry, prose and personal stories, we will share times in life when music has played a particularly meaningful role. Today we will celebrate a new addition to our musical family – a Kawai digital piano. Several Wy'East service musicians will be on hand to demonstrate the versatility of this instrument. Music Director Linda Jo will lead this music-filled service.

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

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

September 30 FAITH IN ACTION: PORTRAITS OF A WAR

Rev. Susan Maginn will present a sermon series this year on how our values are challenged in the world and how we, as a religious community, are called to respond.

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

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Rich will be Rev. Maginn's Lay Leader for the month of September. Please also note that you may see some changes in our order of service this fall as Rev. Maginn integrates new pieces.

Reveries

By Rev. Susan Maginn



"So, we have this new minister. Am I allowed to call her?" Yes, please do! You are why I am here!

Here's a borrowed list of When to Call the Minister:

- When you haven't met me yet, but would like to.
- When you have problems you'd like to discuss concerning your children, your job, your relationships, or anything else when a sympathetic ear might be of help.
- When you're going in the hospital or know someone else in the congregation who is.
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill.
- When you're planning to be married, or wish you could be.
- When you have a child to be dedicated to the community.
- When you're pregnant but wish you weren't.
- When you, or a friend or neighbor would like more information about the Unitarian Universalist faith.

- When you're considering joining the congregation.
- When you'd like to show me what a good cook you are!
- When you have suggestions to make about programs for the church.
- When you have suggestions for a sermon.
- When you'd like help with committee work or with other congregational activities.
- When there are community issues you'd like to discuss or would like me to be involved in.
- When you're mad at me.
- When you appreciate something I've said or done.
- When you'd like to talk religion with me.
- When you'd like to talk parenting with me - as a parent, or as a child.
- When you've had good news and want to share it.
- When you want to tell me your history with the church.
- When you want to spend more time with the children and youth.
- When you've heard a great joke and want to share it...

What I love about this list is how it points to the different facets of our lives: times of celebration and times of loss, yearnings for the past, present and future. This is why religious community is so special. It is the one place completely devoted to the celebration of life, in all its glory and all its messiness. I sure hope that you

will contact me if and when any of the above list is true for you.

For your information, I'm working on establishing regular office hours at Waverly, so stay tuned. Meanwhile, I am working from home. The best way to reach me is at susan.maginn@gmail.com or my cell phone number is (503) 867-7310.

See you in church,

Susan



From the Board

Here it is September already! Actually, as I write, it is mid-August, but there is decidedly a hint of fall in the air, and the days are definitely getting shorter. The board has met with Rev. Maginn twice, and she is hard at work getting to know people, meeting with committees, and planning for the upcoming church year.

In addition to the excitement of welcoming Susan, we are also on track financially, with slightly more in savings than anticipated, our special collections over the past year (to support local social justice work) netting close to \$2,800, and a small grant in-hand from the Unitarian Universalist

From the Board, Continued

Growth Foundation to help us support our leap of faith in calling a new minister, even as we are just beginning to grow.

Things are already starting to fall into place and I am grateful for the many gifts that each of us contributes to make it all happen. Because of everyone's generous donations of time, talent and treasure, I am confident that Wy'east will continue on our present path as a caring, active – and growing – haven of liberal spirituality on Portland's east side.

As we think about the coming year and the possibilities that lie ahead, please consider what you feel called to contribute to Wy'east. It might be helping with a fundraiser or increasing your pledge. It might be greeting and ushering some Sunday evening. It might be hosting social hour or cleaning up after a potluck. It might be helping with religious education, or serving on a committee, or making sure the newsletter gets mailed. It might be making music with the choir or chamber players. Or, maybe there's something else you feel called to share. Just let any member of the board know, and we will help you find your place. And, the bonus is that you will be more connected with the community, feeling good about keeping the wheels greased.

Finally, although the following information may be outdated by the time you actually read this

column, I would like to report that the rent negotiation with Waverly is ongoing. The board has made a counter proposal and we're waiting to hear back. It's unclear how all that will wash out. Meanwhile, we are in conversation with a couple of other churches about possibly renting worship space from them. Again, it's unclear how either of those conversations will turn out, but we'll certainly keep you posted.

I hope to see you at the water communion on Homecoming Sunday, September 9. It promises to be another eventful year!

Barbara
Board Moderator ♦

Weaving a Web of Ministry

Not long after I attended my first service at Wy'east, I received a lovely handwritten note in the mail thanking me for visiting and encouraging me to come back. It is a rarity in this day and age to receive such a piece of mail and it spoke volumes in its reflection of the welcoming atmosphere I had experienced on my first visit.

My sincere appreciation and gratitude go out to Mabel for her attention to this simple, yet so important, detail that helped shape my first impressions of this congregation. Her work to welcome visitors, both her follow-up notes as well as her

scheduling of ushers, make a big impression on newcomers and old-timers alike.

Every small act of service that each of us offers to the mission of this church is a thread in the web of ministry we are weaving. Imagine what our congregation and services would look like without the many small, easily overlooked contributions that our members and friends provide on a daily and weekly basis. Being of service is important and sacred work that not only adds to our community but also provides opportunities for personal spiritual growth.

Your Committee on Ministry would like to encourage you to take a closer look at the inner workings of this community and identify those people who are, even in the smallest of ways, contributing to our ministry. This act of acknowledgement is a wonderful reminder to each of us of the interconnectedness of all things and the value we each bring to the mission of this congregation. If you have suggestions of members and friends whose contributions merit future appreciation, please let a Committee Member (Anders, Susan Maginn or me) know.

In peace and love,

Linda
Committee on Ministry ♦

Music Matters



This past summer has been full of music for me. Last June I had the privilege of singing as an alto in the General Assembly Choir of the Unitarian Universalist Association, under the direction of Leon Burke. Between rehearsals, I was busy attending as many music workshops as I could squeeze in and hanging out with the youth.

Next, I sang in a small Madrigal Choir in a class with Anna Briscoe at the Community Music Center. I sang as a tenor this time, and as the only one in my section. It was an interesting challenge for me!

Then, at the end of July our family crammed every square inch of trunk space in our car with sand castle-building tools, kites, hats, changes of clothing, a mandolin and a hardy tabletop keyboard, and headed off to the Oregon Coast. We stayed near the ocean in Seaside, and I commuted south to Cannon Beach for the Haystack Choral Conducting Workshop with Rodney Eichenberger. It was a week packed with hands-on learning experiences, new friendships and beautiful music.

I carry these experiences with me now as we start the church year anew. I look forward to working with Susan Maginn, and to making music with our

congregation, the Wy'east Family Choir and the Wy'east Chamber Players.

For choir members new and experienced, please indulge me as I try out some new conducting techniques. They are designed to be friendly to singers, and appeal to all sorts of learners, whether you take in information best through your eyes, your ears, or by moving your body.

This year, our Music Committee is expanding to include a wider cross section of our congregation. I invite you to take a moment after services to talk with people wearing musical notes on their nametags; your Music Committee members are there to answer questions, take suggestions, or just say hello.

My cup has been filled to overflowing; I look forward to sharing the overflow with all of you.

Yours in harmony,

Linda Jo
Music Director ◆

Make Music with Us

The Wy'east Family Choir rehearses in the sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. on the first, second and third Sundays of the month from September (with the exception of September 2) through mid-June. As its name

implies, people of all ages are invited to sing in this choir of our extended congregational family. We also have opportunities for smaller ensembles of singers.

The Wy'east Chamber Players is an ensemble that draws on a collection of instrumentalists who come together in various configurations to provide music for services.

If you are interested in sharing your musical gifts with our congregation, either as a soloist, as an accompanist, or as part of an ensemble, please contact Linda Jo or another member of the Music Committee. ◆

LRE Lifespan Religious Education



We're looking forward to another full year of Lifespan Religious Education at Wy'east. Children will be divided into three groups for Sunday evening classes: preschoolers and kindergarteners, first through fourth graders, and fifth through eighth graders. We have some wonderful teachers. Anders will be working with the oldest kids,
Religious Education, Continued

Morgan and Katy will alternate with the lower elementary class, and I'll teach the youngest ones this year in addition to meeting with the youth group twice a month.

This year, in an effort to keep up with safe congregation guidelines, we'll be asking parents to sign up for about one shift a month to help in a classroom. Those parents will also be asked to bring a simple, healthy snack (think sliced fruit or something similar). If you are not a parent, but would be interested in helping in a classroom, please contact me.

We have some exciting adult religious education classes planned as well this year. Rev. Susan Maginn will offer a theology class entitled *The Five Questions* (see article below), and Lynn Bacon, a long-time area Director of Religious Education, will offer a parenting class. We are also looking forward to *Environment and Faith*, offered by community minister Rev. Katherine Jesch who is active in the UU Ministry for Earth and who was recently in our pulpit.

We look forward to welcoming our new minister, Rev. Susan Maginn, and seeing how her ministry will shape the LRE program. Susan will be incorporating a *Worship for All Ages* moment into each service, ensuring that the time our children spend in worship is really geared towards their spiritual growth. Another

change that is being discussed is having one intergenerational service each month.

Please contact Karla, Committee Chair, or me if you are interested in volunteering for the LRE program in any way. We would especially appreciate additional committee members, classroom volunteers, and people to assist with special programs. Working with Religious Education is a great opportunity to grow spiritually as you make a difference in the life of Wy'east.

In faith,

Marcia
LRE Coordinator ♦

New Class on Questions of Faith

Who am I? How do I know what I know? Who – or what – is in charge of all that exists? What is my purpose in life? What happens after I die? Come to "The Five Questions" class this fall and explore these mysteries of faith in a supportive small group setting.

"The Five Questions" curriculum assumes that we are all theologians. We are theologians whenever we describe what we believe or do not believe. Warning: There are no right answers! And you just might walk away with more questions.

The class will meet on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. in Hyde Hall on: October 2, 9, 16, 23, and November 6, and 13. (Note, there will be no meeting on October 30th.)

If you are interested in this exciting journey of growth and discovery, please email Rev. Susan Maginn at susan.maginn@gmail.com.

We are exploring how to provide childcare during the class, assuming anyone needs it. If you are in need of childcare or can spend some time with our kids during the class, please email Laura at: wyeast-news-editor@holycow.portland.or.us. ♦

Sharing Circles are in the Works

Sharing circles, covenant groups, small group ministry; we are not sure what to call them yet, but we are pretty sure there is interest in getting this program rolling. Are you interested in meeting monthly with a small group of people and talking about themes of intimacy and ultimacy? This is a great way to deepen your own spiritual life, build relationships in the Wy'east community and be of service to the larger community.

For example, one group that is already forming is for people who like to quilt, knit, or crochet. They are going to meet monthly, probably at someone's

Sharing Circles, Continued.

home, to discuss spiritual questions, all the while creating beautiful things to donate to families living in poverty or facing homelessness. Another group could be people who want to watch sports together (really!). I hear we have a number of Red Sox fans at Wy'east. Another could simply be for people who are all free on Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

If you want to take part in a sharing circle or have questions or ideas about how such a group would function, contact Rev. Susan Maginn at susan.maginn@gmail.com. Let's see what we can put together! ♦

UU Adventures in Eating



Instead of the usual First Sunday Potluck, please join us after the informal service on September 2 for Wy'east's traditional **Labor Day Weekend Potluck Picnic** on the church lawn (weather permitting). September 9 is **Second Sunday Soup**. Bring a vegetable to church and drop it off in the basket by the entrance. Mark will use it to make a tasty vegetarian soup for all to enjoy after church. Bread

and salad are always welcome too. On September 16 after the service and social hour, we'll head out for a **Restaurant Adventure**, location to be announced. If you'd like to take part, please tell Tode that day. He'll get a count and call ahead so our table will be ready. ♦

Newsletter News

Articles and calendar items for the October newsletter are due by 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19. Please send submissions to: wyeast-news-editor@holycow.portland.or.us.

We encourage one and all (kids too!) to participate. Send in your original artwork or poetry, book and movie recommendations, or personal news and milestones, such as we share with each other during Joys and Concerns each week. We look forward to hearing from you!

Laura and Abbie, Co-Editors ♦

and Tode for so enthusiastically representing Wy'east there! ♦

Neither Rain, Nor Sleet, Nor Snow...

Are you looking for a quick and easy way to lend a hand to the Wy'east community? How about working with Laura and Abbie to get the newsletter out the door each month?

This job involves picking up the newsletters from the printer, folding and labeling them, and making sure the copies are at church before the end of the month (to be handed out after the service). Also, any copies not picked up that evening need to be stamped and mailed.

This job happens only once a month and is finished within a couple of days. It's a great way for a busy person or youth to help out, or two friends could do the folding together to make it more fun and sociable. Let Laura or Abbie know if this volunteer job sounds like a good fit for you. ♦

Taking it to the Streets

On August 18, a group from our congregation spent the whole day at the Hawthorne Street Fair, talking to people about Unitarian Universalism and this community, while handing out free water bottles. Thank you Paul, Linda Jo, Alana, Joanne

September Office Hours

Rich will be in the office at Waverly from 1-3 p.m. every Wednesday in September. If you have questions or church business, please call (503) 777-3704 during these hours. ♦

Book Nook



Book Reviews

from Betsy

The Making of a Civil Rights Lawyer, by Michael Meltsner. After graduating from Yale Law School in 1961, Meltsner joined the Legal Defense and Education Fund of the NAACP, under Thurgood Marshall. An engrossing biographical/historical saga with many complex human and legal stories on the evolution of the civil rights struggle, this book allows us to look in through the back door and understand things we may have never thought about. Although dismantling racism and discrimination is a never-ending work in progress, this book adds to our foundation. It's an enjoyable read, too!

It's OK to Miss the Bed on the First Jump, and Other Life Lessons I Learned from Dogs, by John O'Hurley. O'Hurley believes that dogs teach us lessons about living that one cannot learn from humans. This warm book has eleven short chapters that prove his point, such as one on barking: Dogs say what they mean. They use no cautious cover-ups like people learn to do as they move away from babyhood. Other bits of wisdom include the benefits of napping and appreciating daily joys, and that

every day gives us the chance for a brand new start. The book offers some humor, plenty to take in, and it will make you vow to be more like dogs!

The novel Please, Mr. Einstein, by Jean-Claude Carriere, is an imagined conversation between Einstein and a young woman, detailing what Einstein might have said regarding science, as well as political, personal and spiritual matters. The book, a French translation, is very imaginative and sometimes humorous — a small gem. ♦

Poetry

by Mark

Mark was inspired to write this poem after his meaningful experiences at General Assembly (the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists) in June.

General Assembly, Day 6

Okay, General Assembly has no day 6. Even though I didn't want it to end.

What I am left with, then, is to take what I learned there out into the world.

I actually began on Day 5, Sunday morning, when I initiated a conversation with a homeless guy I've never talked with. I've just seen him around.

Looking at him, you'd think he has mental problems. And that may be so. But he said he had a satori (enlightenment) experience

some years ago, and said "namaste" to me (I honor the sacred in you) when we parted.

On Day 6, I checked in with Kenny, another homeless guy I do talk to and said, "Do you know John? Seems to me he got stuck along the way."

Kenny just smiled and shrugged. I got the message: You can get stuck there yourself if you want, Mark, but watch who you judge. I told him I understood.

And on the same day, I said hello to a hundred people on the street of every description (internally saying namaste to them all), and gave a book and the following note to a thirty-ish woman with cerebral palsy I see around and talk to some:

"Thank you for being a teacher of mine. I know that sounds weird. Here's the deal. I see you going for being the best you can be. And it always moves me to do the same."

She gave me a Mississippi-wide smile in return, and when I saw her two days later, she said, smiling again, "Thanks, that made my day; I put it on my refrigerator."

I asked, "Just a day?" and she said quickly, "Week! Week!" and I said: "I was counting on fifteen years." And we both laughed loud. And long. ♦

OofS=order of service

September 2007 — Calendar of Events

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

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
2 5pm Vespers Service 6pm Annual Labor Day Potluck Picnic	3	4	5 10am OofS Deadline 1-3pm Office Hours 7 pm Board Meeting	6	7	8
9 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 6pm Soup Supper	10	11 7 pm Worship Committee	12 10am OofS Deadline 1-3pm Office Hours	13	14 7-9pm Committee on Ministry	15
16 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour 7pm Restaurant Adventure	17	18	19 10am OofS Deadline 1-3pm Office Hours 7 pm Board Meeting 7pm Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22
23 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour	24	25	26 10am OofS Deadline 1-3pm Office Hours	27	28	29
30 5pm Service 6pm Social Hour						

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