

October 2021 • vol 22 • issue 272

HIPFISH MONTHLY

alternative press serving the lower columbia pacific region

FILM: Vampira at the AIFF • Halloween Classics at the Liberty
THEATRE: The haunting, The Weir at Ten Fifteen • Dorian Gray at
The Coaster • Hornyak's Samhain tales at KALA
DANCE: Sparrow Dance Co outdoor bewitchings • All Hallows
BloodyVox at Liberty **LITERARY:** Melissa Eskue Ousley at KALA

**What's Up with Housing
in Tillamook County p8**

**Spend the Eve with
Poet Jericho Brown p12**

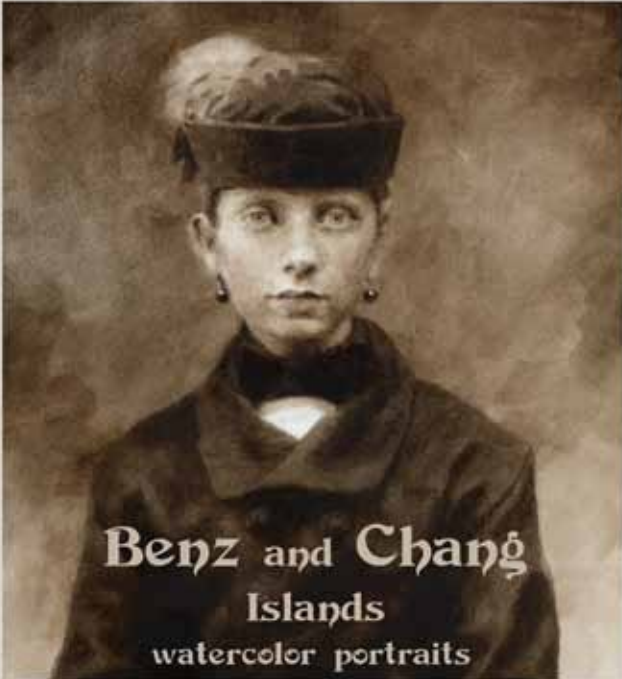
**Eulogy
for a
Tree p7**

Support Survivors during

**PURPLE
LIGHT
NIGHT**

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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First Person: A Dark Fantasy for Fall Guest Author Melissa Eskue Ousley talks with Host Heather Hirschi • Friday Oct 15

"An indelible story of loving yourself in a world of dreadful realities" says Kirkus Review of *A Constellation of Scars*, Melissa Eskue Ousley's dark fantasy set in Seaside, Oregon.

The book follows Amelia, who on her 12th birthday, begins growing pearls from the skin on her back. Her mother, Denise, sells the pearls to support the family, believing her daughter has a blessed gift. But Amelia feels the condition to be a curse, as the pearls' formation beneath her skin causes feverish pain. While the pearls' harvest brings temporary reprieve, her back is marked with scars. Denise hides Amelia from the world to keep her gift secret. She fears discovery will lead to Amelia's abduction and exploitation for the pearls' wealth.

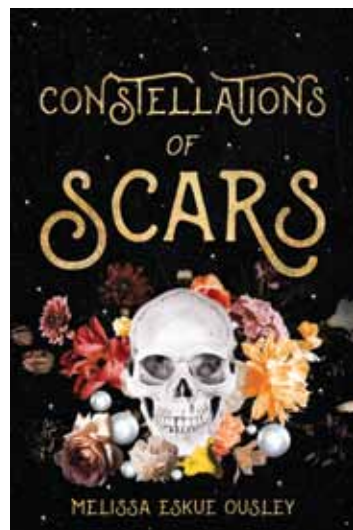
The story unfolds as Amelia, now a young woman, plots her escape from her mother's imposed captivity. She runs away and discovers a new home at a museum

of human oddities and a family among the performers. Amelia discovers that her mother could not have imagined the threat of the real world's actual dangers.

A Constellation of Scars, a finalist in the 2021 International Book Awards, is Eskue Ousley's 6th novel. Her suspense novel, *Pitcher Plant* won a 2018 Independent Publisher Book Award. Her young adult novel, *Sunset Empire*, debuted in a bestselling boxed set. Her short stories have been included in *Rain Magazine*, *The North Coast Squid*, and various anthologies. Eskue Ousley lives with "her family, a neurotic dog, two charming cats, and a piranha" on the Oregon Coast. When she's not writing, she can be found "volunteering for her local wildlife center, caring for injured owls and hawks."

Award-winning author Melissa Eskue Ousley is our guest for October's First Person: Authors Talk on October 16 at KALA. We hope you'll join us for some Halloween horror as we explore the grim joys of the genre and other tidbits from this compelling writer's life.

Friday, October 15, 8pm. Doors open at 7:30. All safety protocols will be in place with proof of vaccination or negative covid tests required. Tickets: \$15, available at brownpapertickets.com. Costumes Welcomed!!!!



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Tales from the Darkest Side of the Brother's Collected Stories



MASTER STORYTELLER WILL HORNYAK celebrates the Celtic New Year of Samhain with stories from the darkest side of the Brothers Grimm (among others) along with poems, songs and lore in honor of the "thin times" of the year. For mature audiences, age 14 and older.

About the Storyteller: From Irish myths and Russian fairytales to Mexican folktales and Oregon tall tales, Will Hornyak weaves a wide web of oral traditions into thoughtful, engaging and well crafted performances. Will has performed throughout the United States and been a featured teller at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. He lives in Milwaukie, Oregon but resides mostly in his imagination where facts rarely intrude upon a good story.

Storyteller Will Hornyak Friday Oct 22 7:30pm

A favorite guest artist at KALA, Will's last scheduled performance in March 2020 was postponed due to Covid-19. KALA hopes to be welcoming back his treasured storytelling powers, more than a year and half later.

"Storyteller par excellence....Will Hornyak takes listeners across a spiritual threshold...transports audiences young and old into an amazing world of imagination." *The Oregonian*

"Warmth, wit, wisdom....Will Hornyak is a perennial favorite." Rebecca Hom, Director of Forest Storytelling Festival

Friday, October 22, 7:30pm. Doors open 7pm. \$15. www.brownpapertickets.com. Tickets on sale Oct 1, 2021. Costumes Welcomed!!

KALA Social Distance Seating

KALA shows will comply with COVID Guidelines policy. Limited table seating, and capacity at 50% The room is ventilated, in addition to ceiling fans, and Hepa Filter. We ask that our attendees provide vaccination cards/ or 72 hr. negative tests, and maintain mask safety.

a KALA production

Friday,
Oct 15, 7:30pm
Tickets: \$15



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SeasideFirstSaturdayArtwalk thegilbertdistrict.wordpress.com



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STEPHEN BERK

WE ARE LIVING IN A COUNTRY where virtually everything has become politicized. Two reasonably functional political parties which could work together to achieve pragmatic solutions to national problems have become implacable foes with no interest in reconciliation. The vote on nearly every issue is strictly down party lines. The system that operated reasonably well through the twentieth century has been seriously eroding in the twenty-first. One can cite a multitude of reasons for this development. Chief among these are significant changes in media that have facilitated the breakdown of what used to be relative consensus on major issues. The Internet contains a great variety of news sources each reflecting its own peculiar views. National Public Radio, the closest approximation, to what used to pass for the old consensus oriented national newscasts, has had a centrist to slightly left of center viewpoint for most of its existence. Not much different, from a moderately left orientation are syndicated news programs like Democracy Now, which one generally hears on public stations in left leaning cities like Astoria. The right, for their part, has FOX News, an outlet of the Fox conglomerate, now owned by Rupert Murdoch, a conservative billionaire who lives with his Chinese wife in China. These two large networks set the pattern for many of the stations and news outlets in the nation-at-large.

Hence we now have two main news organizations, each with a highly influential billionaire or media elite, exerting prime influence, and each with its own loyal audience. Listeners and viewers of Fox don't ordinarily turn to see what the news is saying on CNN (center left). Few look at alternative viewpoints and compare them. What we now have instead in place of most thinking, active citizens, are parrots of right leaning or left leaning propaganda. It is from the right, however, that we get much of present day conspiracy thinking regarding national events, institutions and issues. They have less trust of national institutions than does the center and moderate left. During the COVID 19 pandemic, some individuals on the hard right as well as radical left, where distrust of national institutions is most common, compose much of the anti-vax crowd. Never in the history of this country has medical treatment been so absurdly politicized. Vaccines, like all pharmaceuticals, are manufactured by the large pharmaceutical companies. In the case of the COVID 19 vaccine, it is the product of Pfizer-Biontech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson. There are, of course, people who for religious reasons avoid drugs of any kind. They are a tiny minority. However, in the case of COVID 19 vaccines, there are fairly large numbers (a little over 20 per cent) who are simply refusing to take it. These people rarely do genuine research into its effectiveness. They largely follow a spate of anti-vax websites and other alternative sources.

Meanwhile, the vaccines, which have now been with us for the better part of a year, are working nicely, as vaccines generally do. Yes, there are breakthrough cases of COVID among vaccinated people, but they are in the one per cent range. And even when vaccinated individuals contract COVID, they typically get much milder cases and do not need to be hospitalized. Yet the one out of five people who say the vaccine is simply not for them do not research into its safety and effectiveness. These people thus refuse to look at the overall efficacy of the vaccine and choose to risk getting COVID and spreading it to others if they mix with the public-at-large in shopping venues, restaurants and other public places.

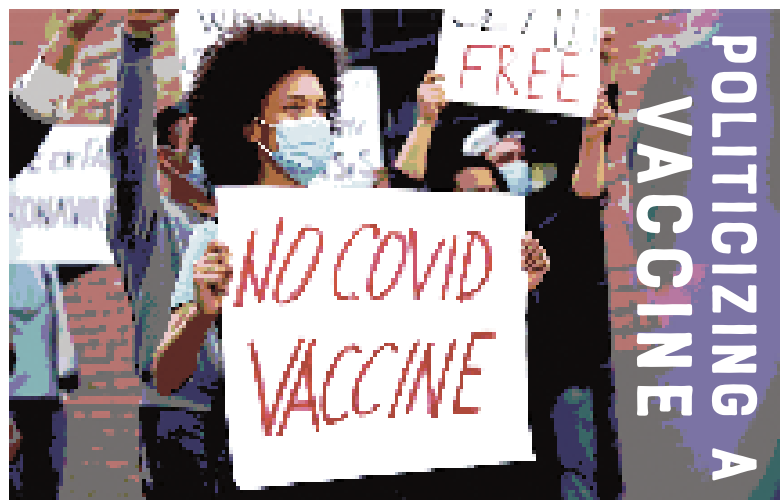
Even those who have been staying home most of the time, have to go out periodically for necessities. As for masks, except for the very best ones, available mainly to medical personnel, they are of limited value, since viruses are microscopic and can get through or around them.

The results of one-fifth of adult Americans choosing to not take the vaccine is that it continues to spread among us and evolve dangerous variants that may eventu-

ally be able to overcome the vaccines. Because of this distinct possibility, medical scientists have been working on booster shots to keep the already immunized resistant to COVID. If people would simply follow sound medical advice, based on statistical fact and ignore social media nonsense like, "it will alter my DNA" more would take the vaccines and the disease would much more rapidly recede.

Yet much of our undereducated public no longer trusts the medical establishment. Granted, medical scientists are hardly infallible, but they are well trained people who put the drugs they are developing through rigorous clinical trials in cooperation with the Center for Disease Control. Dr. Antony Fauci, now 79, a prominent immunologist for several decades and head of the CDC, has strongly and consistently advocated taking the vaccine. He has spoken truly, noting that only a tiny percentage get sick from the vaccine with a miniscule proportion dying. These figures are far, far smaller than the numbers who die from COVID. The disease has now been with us overturning our lives for almost two years. There have been lockdowns, with the effect of many small businesses having gone under.

And never before has a vaccine been so politicized in such a toxic, divisive political environment. If previous American populations had resisted the vaccines for small pox, diphtheria, whooping cough, polio and a good many other scourges, we would still have many of these diseases with us today. A sizable portion of the American public, who loudly and unnecessarily refuses to trust medical science, as well as most of our other public institutions, is making the country sicker, dumber and ever more dysfunctional.



POLITICIZING A
VACCINE



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MASK.

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public places near you...*



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PUSH to Limit Single-Use Plastic Production and Petrochemical Expansion in Build Back Better Plan



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon's U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) is co-leading a bicameral effort calling for limitations on single-use plastic production and exclusion of any provisions that expand petrochemical infrastructure from the Build Back Better plan.

"Paired together, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal (BID) and a \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package, provide a unique opportunity to create good paying American jobs while making meaningful progress towards avoiding the worst impacts of the climate crisis," the members wrote. "However, if these bills do not curb our usage of single use plastic, or even worse, result in massive new investment in petrochemical infrastructure, and an expansion of plastic production, than we will have failed to meet this moment with the ambition that the climate crisis demands of us."

The members note that any increase in plastic production will do serious harm to greenhouse gas emissions and enhance the already devastating climate crisis. They also highlight the use of petrochemical facilities in relation to the decades-long environmental racism that negatively impacts communities of color.

Local Arts Eligible for Grant Funds

ASTORIA, ORE. — The Clatsop County Cultural Coalition is gearing up to accept applications for the 2022 grant cycle. The grant awards, funded by the Oregon Cultural Trust, are distributed to projects that support, maintain, preserve and protect cultural programs in the arts, heritage and humanities in Clatsop County. "The awards given out each year can make a difference in the success of a project and a dream to become self-sustaining," co-chair Charlene Larsen said. "When your community supports cultural efforts with funding, the recognition and support means so much to the success of a project and encourages more support from your friends and neighbors in Clatsop County." Organizations with 501(c)3 nonprofit status are eligible to apply for grants through the cultural coalition. Individuals may apply when sponsored by a nonprofit fiscal agent. Application forms are due by 5 p.m. Oct. 31. Late applications will not be accepted.

Grant awards will be announced in December 2021 for activities occurring between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022. Grant funds are available up to \$2,000 per project. Approximately \$10,000 is awarded each grant cycle. Funding priorities include:

- Raising awareness of culture in the visual and performing arts, heritage, and/or humanities.
- Supporting the preservation, functionality, and/or sustained use of physical facilities for visual and performing arts, heritage, and/or humanities in Clatsop County.
- Strengthening the overall health of existing nonprofit organizations, schools, individuals, or businesses related to visual and performing arts, heritage, and/or humanities in Clatsop County.

Applicants are encouraged to read the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition Plan and FAQs, which are online at www.clatsopculturalcoalition.org.

Virtual grant writing workshops will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, and Friday, Oct. 18, via Zoom. Applicants are encouraged to attend a workshop. Email kpaino2060@gmail.com to make a reservation and receive materials, or, if no email access, call 503-741-1914 to arrange for material pickup.

"Local geologist Tom Horning to speak on Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness 2021"



ADULTS AND TEENAGERS are invited to join Geologist Tom Horning for **"Preparing for Tsunamis: How Soon and How Big?" on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 7 pm in the Seaside Civic and Convention Center's Riverside Room.**

This familiar topic will have a new twist as Horning talks about the geology of the Cascadia Subduction Zone in 2021. He'll talk about earthquakes and tsunamis, how they happen, how often they happen and how you, your family and our community can be better "tsunami-prepared." This free event is hosted by the City of Seaside CERT team. Doors will open at 6:30.

Horning has a master's degree in geology from Oregon State University. After a varied career as an exploration geologist, he returned to Seaside in 1994 and became a natural hazards and geotechnical consultant doing business as Horning Geosciences. A Seaside native, he experienced the 1964 tsunami as a 10-year-old and is now active in trying to save lives in the tsunami zones in and around Seaside. If you haven't heard one of Horning's presentations on Seaside geology,

you're in for an entertaining, eye-opening education. If you're new to the area or an old salt, this forum is a great opportunity to reconnect and hear some new developments on this very important topic.

There will be maps and materials to take home as well as an example of an easy-to-assemble grab and go bag. Additionally, the STARS Amateur Ham Radio Club will be on hand to display Ham radio capabilities. CERT believes it is important to know the risks, learn what to expect and develop an emergency action strategy to plan ahead for disasters. Even if it's learning basic first aid, having a grab and go kit, or being "2 weeks ready" to shelter in place, they believe we all should be participants in keeping our community safe and healthy. The public is encouraged to come and join the discussion and new CERT members are always welcome. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. Distancing and masking guidelines will be observed.

Note: This event is intended for ages 15 and up. The Seaside Civic and Convention center is located at 415 1st Avenue in Seaside.



Arial photo of City of Seaside (KOIN)



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North Coast **INCO NEWS** INDIVISIBLE

Look For Reason And Reassurance

IT'S BEEN THAT KIND OF A YEAR, and it looks to continue for a while. Fortunately, pro-democracy activists continue to work for voter rights, human dignity, and stronger and healthier families, communities, and country. Kudos to everyone who persists, even in the midst of tragedy, disease, death, and personal challenge.

Fortunately, each of us has many ways to turn those struggles into opportunities, and anger into action. Each of us can do something that matters.

"It is our turn to defend the ramparts of freedom. We are not being saddled with an undue burden. Every generation must step into the breach. We need only hold the line until the next generation is ready to fight. But we must show them the way. If we expect our children and grandchildren to understand that democracy is worth defending, they must grow up watching us do so."

-- Robert Hubbell, Today's Edition, September 3, 2021

Indivisible North Coast Oregon (INCO) is not affiliated with any political party. Instead, we work with people and organizations that share our values, want to defend democracy, and oppose authoritarianism, bigotry, and corruption. Fortunately, dozens of local, regional, and national groups do just that -- which means local Indivisibles work alongside millions of people committed to a better future for our country and planet.

What kind of a country do you want?

"Democrats are trying to win control by protecting the ability of Americans to have a say in their government, while Republicans are trying to make their ideology the law of the land by skewing the mechanics of our democracy to permit a minority to rule over the majority.

".... The concentration of Republicans in rural states with smaller populations means that the Senate is also skewed toward the Republican Party. Public policy scholars Michael Ettlinger and Jordan Hensley crunched the numbers to show that today's 50 Democratic "senators represent 26% more people than Republican senators: 202 million compared to 160 million.

".... At stake is whether our government will work for ordinary Americans who make up the majority of our population—

including in 2021 women and minorities as well as white men—or whether it will serve an entrenched minority."

-- Heather Cox Richardson, Letters from an American, September 6, 2021

Please take a moment to tell your elected leaders what you value and what you want them to do. How will they know what you want if you don't tell them?

Senator Ron Wyden

Email: <https://www.wyden.senate.gov/contact/>

Phone: (202) 224-5244

Senator Jeff Merkley

Email: <https://www.merkley.senate.gov/contact>

Phone: (202) 224-3753

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici

Email: <https://bonamici.house.gov/contact-me>

Phone: (202) 225-0855

Locally, the Clatsop County Commissioners need to hear from progressives at their meetings. All meetings are online and are on the calendar monthly. They take public comment at the beginning of each regular meeting (not work sessions). If you want to speak at a meeting, register in advance by calling 503-325-1000 or email commissioners@co.clatsop.or.us by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Calendar: www.co.clatsop.or.us/calendar.

Our democracy needs you now, more than ever. Fortunately, whatever else it surprises us with, next week will provide each of us with opportunities to use the wisdom, skills, and passion for democracy that our country needs.

INCO's weekly newsletter suggests specific actions so you can make a difference for yourself and your community. FMI: about INCO and our activities, sign up at www.incoregon.org to get INCO's e-newsletter. Questions and comments to incoregon@gmail.com.

[QFolk] **LGBTQI+
LOWER COLUMBIA PACIFIC**

www.lowercolumbiaqcenter.org
PHONE LINE: 503-468-5155
171 Bond St. in Astoria

The roster of offerings at the Lower Columbia Q Center include engagement, service, community and support. LCQC is casting a wide net for volunteers who do everything from events and programs to service on the Board of Directors and committee positions.

Lower Columbia Q Center is open 3-5pm Mondays and Wednesdays for drop in and office hours utilizing local and CDC guidelines. That means 10 or less people and masks are required. Check out the new facility and views of the bridge and river from 171 W Bond St. in Uniontown, Astoria.

**Call the phone line for
contacts listed:**

OPEN 6-9PM Friday nights using the same guidelines and also available at that time by Zoom online. We invite your interests in resources, support, socializing and just hanging out for fun. Some folks drop in for a few minutes others for a few hours. Contact: Jim Summers

YOUTH GROUP, Kiki at the Q, meets the second and fourth Thursdays 5-8 PM at the Lower Columbia Q Center and alternately by Zoom online. These meetings may feature special guests and teen experts from the Harbor. Contact: Christina Gilinsky

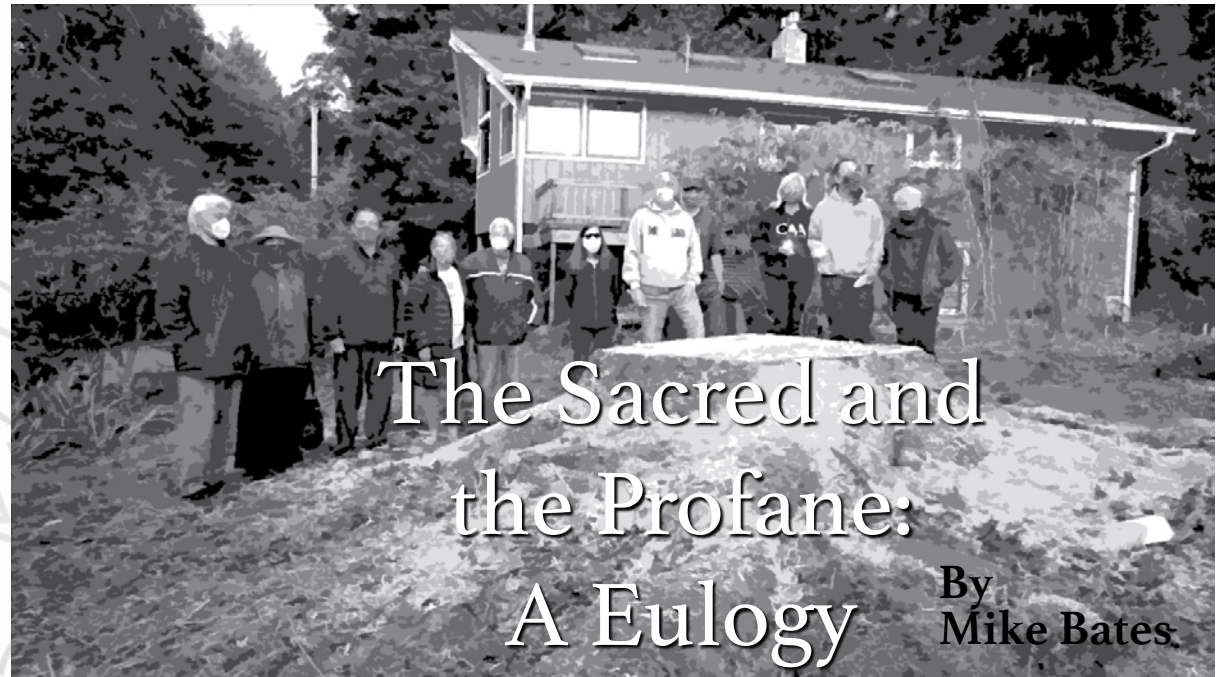
THE LCQC GENDER ALLIANCE meets the third Thursday of the month from 6-8 PM.

This peer support group has been operating for over eight years and is currently meeting by Zoom online. Contact: Tessa Scheller

THE LATE BLOOMERS peer support group has been operating for some time in Portland and now at LCQC, currently by Zoom on line. The guys get together the second and fourth Saturdays 3:30-5:30 PM. Contact: Franklin/Jim Summers

QUEER EDGE SOBRIETY is our peer support group featuring support for fun and sober living. Meeting currently by zoom on line, the first Wednesday of the month 6-7:30 PM Contact: Tessa Scheller

SHE germinated in the moist, sandy soil of the Upper Left Coast about the time the first settlers of European descent arrived to build a guest house on Ecola Creek, then called Elk Creek, and she would preside for the next one hundred and twenty years over every milestone in the development of the community that would become renowned across the region as Cannon Beach. Few of us knew her, and fewer still will know that she is gone, reduced to a pile of wood chips by heavy chain saws and industrial shredders in the wake of that voracious antagonist, residential development.



The Sacred and the Profane: A Eulogy

By
Mike Bates

SHE WAS SITKA SPRUCE, part of that manifest destiny that William Clark bequeathed to a young nation when he looked south along the coast from Tillamook Head more than two hundred years ago to declare the scene “the grandest and most pleasing prospect my eyes have ever surveyed.” In his journals a few days earlier, Clark documented a previously unknown species of “fir” that grows to “emence” size with wood “that is white and soft and rives better than any species we have tried.” Of course, the indigenous peoples who’d carved out a way of life along the Pacific coast for eighteen thousand years before Lewis and Clark arrived were already familiar with the species. They were known to summon the spirit of the Sitka spruce, its life force, for wisdom and revered the tree for its benefits in producing fibers, food stuffs, medicines, and pitch, as well as providing habitat for game.

She was of middling height at one hundred feet, stunted somewhat by the wind. But she was sturdy, with a scaly trunk that flared to more than six feet in diameter at the base and sinewy roots that spread out like oversized feet burrowing firmly into the ground. Her canopy was irregular, flattened toward the east by the wind, the abundance of branches at her top bent and twisted into grotesque shapes and angles and capped with stubby needles that resembled from a distance a head of stiff, wiry hair. A handful of branches erupted at random points along the trunk to the south and east, and they extended out from the trunk in long, slender arms punctuated by clusters of needles positioned like hands uplifted in supplication. She gave the appearance of having come by every knot in her soft, white flesh the hard way, by earning them.

I would become acquainted with her on our evening walks, my wife and I with our dogs, around what we’d taken to calling our

“hood.” She wasn’t the largest, the most interesting, or even the prettiest tree along our route, but she stood out from the others by virtue of her location. She grew on a parcel of land designated on a city plat by deed of trust at the intersection of past and present, a lonely tree isolated on the exposed flank of a forest in retreat under the persistent assault of progress.

We’d comment on the enormous size of the wild rhododendron growing at her foot, a vibrant shade of purple when in bloom, or the tender shoot of a young tree nestled in amongst her roots in a way that would inform us that it was kin. I liked to mimic the calls of birds fluttering around in her lower branches and underbrush, the wren-tit, the Swainson’s thrush, and the song sparrow, and we both would laugh at – or was it with – the chipmunks and squirrels scolding us as they circled her trunk in agitation, their bark worse than their bite. We’d gape in breathless wonder at Roosevelt elk or black-tailed deer we’d catch grazing in her shadows, and our daughter once composed a chicken-and-egg riddle in her honor, who should we thank for the haunting song of the forest we heard accompanying our walk that day, the wind or the trees?

But our relationship was more than a handful of random observations at the intersection of then and now. Every once in a while, she would conspire with the elements to remind me of my humble place in this world. A column of golden sunshine penetrating the evening mist, the tell-tale movement of cool air beneath her canopy, and the invigorating aroma of life, and I’d be transported to a time and place where the cycles of nature dictated the pace of life on this planet, not the cycles commerce. I would learn from her in those moments of delight that it is the continuing ability of this marvelous planet to generate and maintain life that matters, more than the

dominion of a single species and everything that seems to entail.

I can’t say I know the reason she was cut, and I really don’t care to know. It’s none of my business, frankly. Trees are cut all the time in these parts, at an alarming rate, I might add, since the COVID refugees started to arrive – one hundred and twenty just since the start of the year, and the reasons are as varied as the trees. The decision very often comes down to an economic proposition, how much of a view, how much square footage, how much parking, or how many of the modern conveniences of life do we need versus how much can we afford, while the economic, aesthetic, and spiritual cost of removing a tree to assuage one’s vanity gets passed on to the community at large. We’re all to blame, everybody who owns a home in our fair city, myself and my wife included, or nobody is.

The indigenous peoples regarded the Creation as an ongoing process. Everything lived and died in their natural course and then returned to the Earth to nourish new life in a process they called “increase without decrease.” Trees were placed on the earth by the Creator to assist humankind and animated with spirits whose job it was to guide us along our journey. To harvest a tree for one’s own benefit, to remove it to make room for a dwelling, for example, was regarded an act of sacrilege that interrupted the cycle of birth and rebirth and deprived the first peoples of the promise of generational renewal.

It is beyond argument anymore that trees are an important part of the planetary feedback mechanism that operates to keep our climate habitable. An average tree removes upwards of fifty pounds of carbon from the atmosphere a year, not a lot until you consider your average Sitka spruce can live as long as one thousand years. Economists have devised free market models to capture the damage we do to our environment in the cost of goods

and services sold, while experts in the field psychology have long known that exposure to nature can improve mental health and often prescribe it as therapy for mental illness. It’s little wonder, one supposes, that people flock to our fair community by the thousands for relief from the insanity of this topsy-turvy world given our status as a “Tree City USA.”

Other communities have begun to figure it out. Towns and cities right here along the Upper Left Coast are imposing a tariff on tree removal, one intended to capture the true cost to the community. Anyone wishing to remove a tree is forced to internalize the tariff as part of their cost-benefits analysis, the one where they get to decide how much of a view, how much square footage, and what amenities they really want or need and at what cost. The proceeds are used by the community to purchase and plant other trees or to fund other projects like community art and green spaces to replace what was lost.

It’s too late for the Sitka spruce at the corner of yesterday and today, God rest her soul. She’s gone, and there is nothing any of us can do but observe her passing.

I’m sorry, old friend. It’s a pathetic excuse, I realize, but I just didn’t know. The best I can do is embrace your passing, now that you’re gone from my life, as a teachable moment. It’s long past time I acknowledge that removal of a single tree from my property has a community-wide cost that must be weighed against my personal desires, the sacred and the profane. That would be a legacy worthy of your sacrifice.

A transplant from the deserts of Utah and Arizona, Mike was fortunate many years ago to marry into five generations of Oregonians. Since relocating to the Upper Left Coast, he’s been known to run with the wolves and even howl at the moon sometimes on those rare nights the light shines through the mist.



What's The Story With Housing In Tillamook County?

Chapter One: Housing is hard to find!

Renters, home buyers and employers looking for employees are well aware of our county's housing crisis. Shortages of attainable housing cause problems for all of us, residents and visitors alike. The Housing Commission, a 15-member advisory committee to the Tillamook County Board of County Commissioners, is working to understand what is causing this crisis and to help find solutions. The goal of the Housing Commission is "To collaboratively advocate for attainable and equitable solutions that impact Tillamook County's greatest housing needs".

The Housing Commission began its learning curve about the housing crisis through a professional Housing Needs Analysis and from a Housing Summit, co-sponsored by the Housing Commission and the Department of Community Development. Now the Commission wants to hear about people's housing experiences.

Housing Stories

Stories illustrate the first-hand accounts of real people, a valuable and important avenue that is key to creating housing solutions. The Housing Commission needs your housing story!

Do you have a story about housing? Are you

- A person who has had trouble finding a place to call home?
- An employer who can't find employees because they can't find a place to live?
- A landlord who is providing long term housing?
- A developer who has built or wants to build homes here?
- Someone who has ideas about what could work?

If you have a housing story to share send an email to TillamookCoHousingCommission@gmail.com

Housing Needs Analysis

In December 2019 the Housing Commission completed a comprehensive formal Housing Needs Analysis to get the hard facts needed to look at the next 20 years of housing needs based on population growth, available buildable lands and economic analysis. Key findings include:

- From 2014 to 2019 home prices rose by 40% but wages rose only 21%.
- Most new housing stock has been aimed at our "resort towns" where the majority of homes are owned by part time residents.

- Vacancy rates for renters and owners plunged to near zero, pushing rents and home prices to record highs.
- The median home price is not attainable by households earning the median income. To be affordable to households with incomes of \$54,000 or less, home sales prices need to be under \$300,000. The median home price in Tillamook County in 2019 was \$323,000.
- One in four workers must commute over 50 miles each way to work.
- These severe housing affordability challenges are exacerbated by land use, environmental, and infrastructure issues as well as limited family wage jobs.

If anything, the housing crisis has worsened under the pandemic. Current data for Tillamook County puts the 2021 Median Income for a family of four at \$64,400, a 19% increase over 2019. Realtor.com shows that the July 2021 median home sale price was \$399,000, an increase of 23%. This makes housing even less attainable by households earning median income.

The link for the 2019 Tillamook County Housing Needs Analysis can be found below.

Housing Summit

A Housing Summit held in October 2019 generated significant momentum for creating housing solutions. The Housing Commission and the Department of Community Development were joined by over 70 local community stakeholders to collaborate in addressing critical housing issues.

Three proposed solutions were endorsed by the majority of Summit participants:

- Create a tax abatement program for multifamily housing.
- Establish a nightly fee from short terms rentals to provide funding to address housing issues.
- Promote the allowance of accessory dwelling units on single family home lots in unincorporated Tillamook County.

The first two proposals became reality with ordinances passed by the Board of County Commissioners in late 2020:

- Property Tax Exemption Ordinance #85: Provides tax abatement for certain multifamily housing which is affordable to households making up to one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the Area Median Income.
- Short-Term Rental Operator License Fee Ordinance #86: Provides for the collection of fees from short term rental establishments based upon gross revenue receipts of the rental each quarter. 75% of fees collected will be used for housing initiatives and 25% for public safety initiatives.

Importantly, these ordinances were co-designed by the parties impacted, including school districts, cities and private property owners. This collaborative support demonstrates that workforce housing is a recognized priority for Tillamook County. See the links below for the text of the ordinances.

The third proposal to promote accessory dwelling units got a boost from the passage of SB391 in the last session of the Oregon State Legislature that "Authorizes counties to allow owner of lot or parcel within rural residential zone to construct one accessory dwelling unit on lot or parcel, subject to certain restrictions."

According to Erin Skaar, Tillamook County Commissioner,

"The Housing Commission has worked hard this year focusing on relationship building with local, private, public, state partners to better understand the crisis, why it happened and now knows what the effective steps are to help address it. Not all of the accomplishments can be highlighted in an action like the property tax exemption, but I think sharing with the communities what's coming next is exciting. 2021 and 2022 are really going to be the years of action."

Tillamook Housing Commission meetings are open to the public and ideas and input are welcome. Meetings are on the first Thursday of each month at 9am. Due to COVID-19, Tillamook County has taken extra measures to ensure the safety of its community members. For the time being, members of the public are invited to participate by calling in to a conference line before meetings. Please dial +1 (971) 254-3149. You will be prompted for a Conference ID number: 887 242 77#

The Tillamook County Housing Commission has several pages on the updated County website at <https://www.co.tillamook.or.us/bc-hc>

Send an email to TillamookCoHousingCommission@gmail.com if you would like to contribute story ideas.

Links to more information:

2019 Housing Needs Analysis Report:
https://www.co.tillamook.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/housing_commission/page/57834/tillamook_hna_final_report_v2.pdf

Housing Needs Analysis Presentation:
https://www.co.tillamook.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/housing_commission/page/57834/hna_presentation.pdf

Property Tax Exemption Ordinance #85: <https://www.co.tillamook.or.us/ordinances/implementing-property-tax-exemption-workforce-housing-unincorporated-tillamook-county>

Short-Term Operator Rental License Fee Ordinance #86
<https://www.co.tillamook.or.us/ordinances/short-term-rental-operator-license-fee-within-unincorporated-tillamook-county-and>

"Creating a Healthy Housing Market for Tillamook County" Housing Task Force March 2017 https://www.co.tillamook.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/housing_commission/page/57834/housingstudy_002.pdf

"Tillamook County's Housing Crisis" is a video made for the Housing Summit by Jane Scott Video Productions:
<https://tctv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=GakxFyap5gpO>

TILLAMOOK COUNTY HOUSING COMMISSION



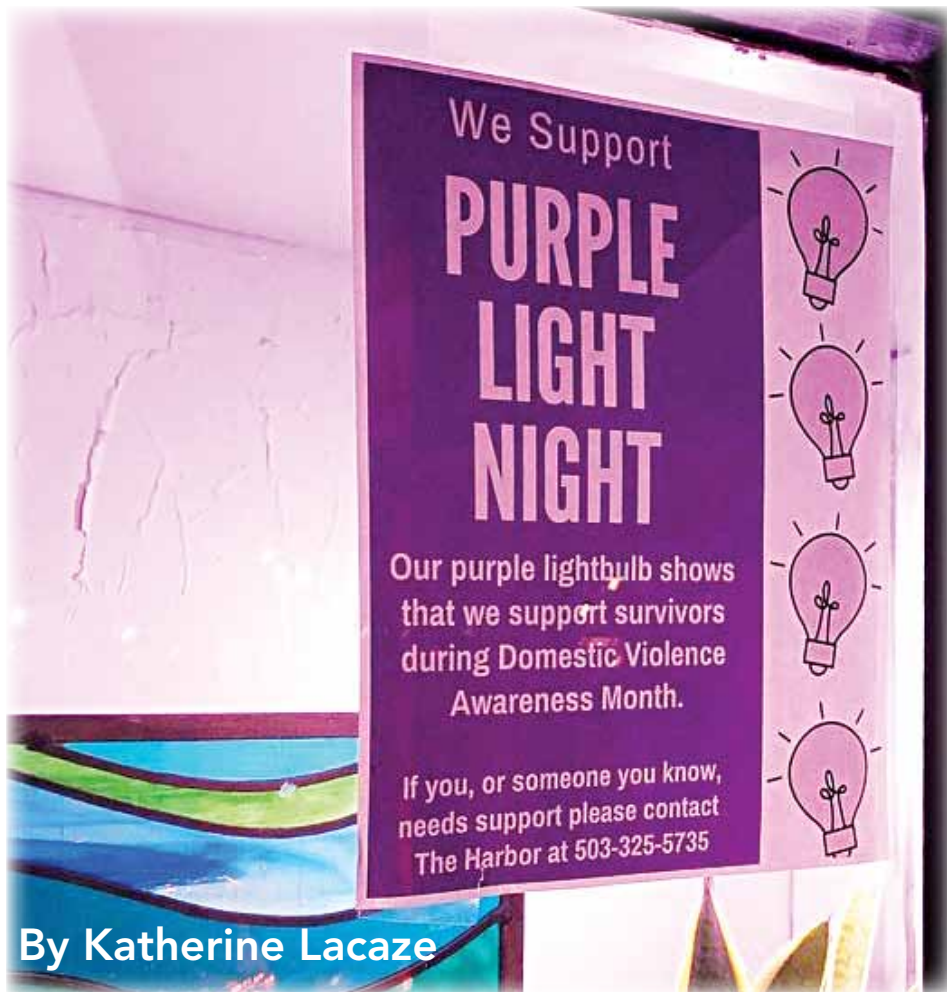
HOUSING

— BUILDS COMMUNITY —

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

THE HARBOR: Breaking Down the Barriers

PURPLE LIGHT for Hope and Encouragement



By Katherine Lacaze

AS cases of domestic violence gradually increase across the country and in Clatsop County, The Harbor and Clatsop County Domestic Violence Council are partnering to bolster awareness and cultivate dialogue among the public.

The groups will be facilitating two countywide campaigns during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October: The Purple Light Project and the Silent Witnesses Campaign.

"One of the biggest barriers to talking about domestic violence and sexual assault is there has been so much shame surrounding them for millennia," said Terri Steenbergen, director of The Harbor. "The more we show our support for survivors, the more people will feel comfortable asking for help."

For the Purple Light Project, the groups are providing purple lightbulbs to businesses and individuals across the county and encouraging them to keep the lights up through the month of October.

"It's a cool way to show how a community supports survivors, if you have a street of purple lights," Steenbergen said.

The hope is for the purple light to serve as a beacon of hope and encouragement to

survivors—demonstrating to them that there is abundant support within the community. It also is meant to spark conversation that is sometimes difficult to have but critical to tackle a pervasive and multi-faceted problem like domestic violence.

Anyone who wants to display a purple light on their property can obtain one from The Harbor. Although there's an emphasis on businesses, individuals are also encouraged to put them up at their homes.

"The goal is to light up the community and make sure we have dialogue about domestic violence awareness and what are we doing to support survivors," said Chris Hoover, a probation and parole officer with the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office and chair of the Domestic Violence Council.

The suggested donation is \$5 to cover the cost of the bulb and raise funds for The Harbor, which is the only place in the county solely dedicated to providing advocacy, prevention and support to promote self-determination and hope for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

This is the second year The Harbor has organized the Purple Light Project. Steenbergen spoke to the effect last year of seeing the purple lights glowing in the windows and outside of shops and businesses and along the streets in downtown Astoria. Law enforcement agencies in Warrenton and Astoria also had purple lights on display.

For this year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month, in addition to trying to spread the Purple Light Project further throughout the county, The Harbor and the council are also introducing the Silent Witnesses Campaign, which will run concurrently. The Silent Witnesses Campaign involves 20 life-size cutouts of human figures—predominately women and children—that will be placed in locations throughout the county, including businesses and medical offices. Each silhouetted figure will display a story from a survivor that is, once again, meant to raise awareness and generate dialogue.

In light of the pandemic, Hoover said, the Silent Witnesses Campaign and Purple Light Project were the two programs the groups felt "would allow us to have an impact on the community while keeping our committee members safe." They are seeking donations for the cutouts, which will stay up through November and be used from year to year.

BRINGING AWARENESS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence has long been a problem in Clatsop County—not unlike the rest of the country. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has worsened.

Although Hoover didn't have statistical evidence on the precise percentage increase, he spoke anecdotally to observing a rise in the number of arrests involving domestic violence incidents at the sheriff's office since the start of COVID.

Based on research from several wide-scale studies, as of February, domestic violence incidents increased 8.1 percent nationally after pandemic-related lockdown orders were implemented in 2020.

At the Harbor, they were averaging between 90 and 125 phone calls per month pre-pandemic;

now, they receive about 175 to 300 phone calls per month.

"Everything has just shot up," Steenbergen said.

Coupled with the fact that people, in general, have been spending more time at home, working or learning remotely, and separated from usual outlets and escapes, "things have gotten worse for the survivors over the last year," Steenbergen said.

In Clatsop County, the housing crisis throws an additional stressor onto an already nuanced and tenuous problem. While there are numerous variables that factor into a survivor's ability to leave an abusive situation, lack of housing remains a large barrier in this specific region. In general, Steenbergen said, survivors will attempt to leave a situation seven or eight times before it becomes permanent; in Clatsop County, the average is closer to 14 to 15 attempts.

"Some people are exceptionally isolated in the rural parts of the county," she said. "We're really trying to figure out how to work in that universe."

The phone calls and other contact received by The Harbor don't always revolve around physical abuse, which highlights that "there are so many different types of domestic violence," she added.



"But non-physical violence is also really dangerous and can escalate to physical violence. ... We're seeing this trend of escalation."

She explained that it's important for people to know they can reach out to The Harbor, even if they're not in a physical abuse situation or they're unsure if an incident rises to the legal definition of domestic violence. Advocates are on hand to listen, to answer questions and to connect people to resources. Steenberg also emphasized The Harbor provides services to all people, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity.

"We're doing a lot of work internally to ensure we're as accessible as possible and as inclusive as possible," she added.

EXPANDING YOUTH OUTREACH

Since it was established in 1976, The Harbor has grown and evolved to offer an array of culturally responsive services to residents throughout the county. Those include a 24/7 crisis line, in-person advocacy at the drop-in center, legal and criminal justice support, support groups for survivors, and emergency shelter, food and clothing. They expanded their services and staff members over the past two years, and continue looking for opportunities to provide additional support and resources.

"One of our big priorities is reaching out to the youth in Clatsop County," Steenberg said.

The Harbor started a sexual assault prevention program last year and they are working to have a more robust presence in local schools. Last year, they offered a 12-week educational course at the high schools in Astoria, Warrenton and Knappa, and they are striving to provide it to more high schools, and eventually middle schools, throughout the county. The program curriculum teaches young people about the importance of healthy relationships, facts surrounding teen violence, how to recognize sexual violence and other relevant topics.

While Steenberg hasn't detected any particular trends in the number of incidents involving domestic violence among youth, she noted that social media and technology have created more avenues for abuse to happen among this demographic in the 21st century. Unfortunately, these avenues are less visible to peers and adults. Teens are also less likely to reach out for

support and it's more challenging for them to access services, Steenberg said.

Some goals of offering prevention education at the schools, and through other establishments like the Lower Columbia Q Center and Tongue Point Job Corps, are to create a safe space where kids can ask questions about relationships and also connect with a trusted and knowledgeable adult. Since introducing the prevention program at the schools last year, "we're seeing more students reaching out for our services than before," Steenberg said.

In the future, The Harbor would like to facilitate the creation of informational resources, created by youth for youth, such as a podcast and a zine.

the council with an emphasis on creating the appropriate structure and process to make it effective. Jessica Klein, deputy director of The Harbor, serves as the chair and Amber Bowman, a counselor at Astoria High School, is the council secretary.

Everybody who is involved in the council works with survivors or abusers, or a combination of the two. That includes law enforcement and corrections officers, medical and mental health professionals, school personnel, staff from local Department of Human Services (DHS) programs, treatment providers and representatives from various nonprofit and community organizations, such as The Harbor and Consejo Hispano. The council has also



Chris Hoover, (right) probation and parole officer with the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office is chair of the Domestic Violence Council. He and his family, and parole officer Dan Smith (left) and Rose Smith (survivor) facilitate a Purple Light Night Booth at the Astoria Sunday Market.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL RESUMES

As per Oregon statute, all jurisdictions in the state are required to have a local domestic violence coordinating council that "works to intervene with or prevent domestic violence and to foster a coordinated community response to reduce domestic violence."

Clatsop County's council had been on hiatus for more than a year because of the pandemic and how difficult it became to meet. In July, Hoover—who oversees the domestic violence caseload for the sheriff's office—re-introduced

extended invitations to regional tribes and the Q Center, a nonprofit that supports and advocates on behalf of LGBTQIA+ people.

"In bringing this new group together, I wanted to make sure we had diversity at the table—even more diversity than was outlined in statutes," Hoover said. "My goal is to make sure we're not insulating ourselves to just the people we're comfortable working with, but to make sure we're hearing the voices of marginalized people groups."

Once the council reconvened in July, Hoover conducted a survey to get feedback on what members think the council should prioritize for this specific community in order to be effective. The items that rose to the top were working cohesively and productively together as a group—which has been an issue in the past—and investing time in trainings and instruction for officers and other service providers.

During the second meeting, Hoover reviewed how to navigate group process, giving the council an opportunity to evaluate the best practices for working together and dealing with tension and disagreement.

"I wanted to prepare the group for conflict," he said. "How can we deal with conflict in a

really healthy way? How do we disagree and provide feedback to one another in a way that it's educational and not provide feedback in a way that feels like criticism?"

Ultimately, he added, it comes down to the gravity and magnitude of this problem and its detriment to survivors, and the population at large.

"We owe it to our community to put some of our disagreements aside and work together to put a dent in domestic violence in our community," he said.

To integrate additional structure and effectiveness, they also assigned council members to different subcommittees to work on particular projects: domestic violence awareness; domestic violence fatality review; batterer intervention review; and protocol revision and training.

Currently, the council is meeting monthly because of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. They've also scheduled two trainings for the fall. October's training will focus on the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA), an actuarial tool for estimating the risk that a domestic violence offender will assault a partner again. In November, the council will have an immigrant survivor training.

PLANNING THE NEXT PHASE

Starting in 2022, the council will resume meeting every other month, but Hoover and the other officers are determined to cultivate a sustainable and effective group.

One objective that looms large is mitigating the stigma surrounding domestic violence, and that begins by changing the narrative and language used to discuss incidents and the survivors themselves.

"There is a lot of language that happens where the survivor gets blamed for the violence that happens," Hoover said, adding part of the public education process is to deconstruct that inaccuracy. "The survivors didn't initiate the violence in any way, shape or form. It was perpetrated by a batterer—usually a male."

SISU NOT SILENCE

Going forward, Hoover is inspired to start implementing a framework developed by Emilie Lahti, a Finnish researcher, survivor and social activist. She sparked a movement called, "Sisu, Not Silence," which is meant to generate a global-scale cultural shift that removes the stigma and shame imposed on individuals who have experienced interpersonal violence and hurt. SISU is a Finnish word denoting courage and determination in the face of adversity, an iconic concept many people of Finnish lineage in this coastal region relate to.

In 2022, Hoover said, "I would like to see us get behind a campaign like that," to improve the language used to identify what violence is and support survivors after a traumatic experience.

"Not only does that 'sisu' mindset empower survivors, but I also think it's a mindset we can use as a group to forge through challenging times—like now, like a pandemic," he said. "This education piece is so critical to healing our community."



SISU NOT SILENCE

is a movement created by Finnish Activist Emilie Lahti to generate a global-scale cultural shift that removes the stigma and shame imposed on individuals who have experienced interpersonal violence and hurt.

Chris Hoover, Chair of the county's Domestic Violence Council wants to bring light to this campaign for the coastal region.

A photograph showing a person lying on their back on a light-colored floor, partially inside a blue and black tent. The person is wearing patterned sneakers and dark clothing. A small wooden sign with the text "ONCE I WAS LIKE YOU" is placed on the floor next to the person. The background shows a blurred indoor setting with a staircase.

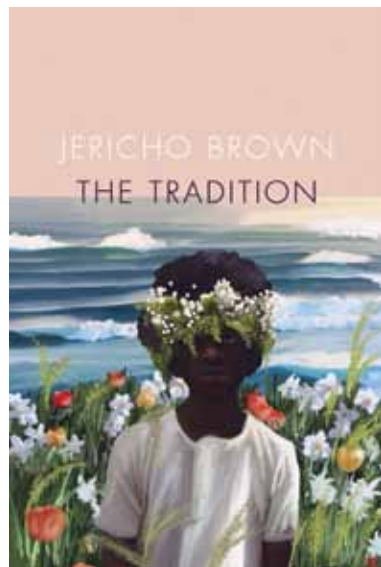
OCT 21 | hipfishmonthly.com



Pulitzer Prize-Winning Poet Jericho Brown makes his way to Astoria

By Marianne Monson

AT THE PORTLAND BOOK FESTIVAL IN 2019, I had the very good fortune of stumbling upon a pop-up reading by Jericho Brown in the Portland Art Museum. I had heard his work read on NPR, but I wasn't prepared for how much I'd be touched by hearing it read aloud by the author. There are some presenters—like Kim Stafford, Sandra Cisneros and Jericho Brown—who don't just read a poem. Rather, they offer up exquisitely crafted words that grab you by the throat and heart, drawing you immediately into their



Jericho Brown is author of *The Tradition* (Copper Canyon 2019), for which he won the Pulitzer Prize. He is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, and the National Endowment for the Arts, and he is the winner of the Whiting Award. Brown's first book, *Please* (New Issues 2008), won the American Book Award. His second book, *The New Testament* (Copper Canyon 2014), won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award. His third collection, *The Tradition* won the Paterson Poetry Prize and was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. His poems have appeared in *The Bennington Review*, *Buzzfeed*, *Fence*, *jubilat*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *TIME* magazine, and several volumes of *The Best American Poetry*. He is the director of the Creative Writing Program and a professor at Emory University.
source: jerichobrown.com

world where you *will* be changed. That's how I experienced Jericho's poetry in that space that day. There was such a sense of vulnerability and rawness in his performance, that I felt very nearly embarrassed to be witness to the intimacy.

As I listened to his work, I thought about how much I wanted to share the experience with my students, my colleagues, my friends and my neighbors—how much I wanted to share Jericho's poetry with Astoria, a place that appreciates artistry and vulnerability more than anyplace I know. I had recently started the Writer's Guild and worked with Forest Visions to bring Kim Stafford to town for a series of workshops and readings. I began to wonder: could we bring Jericho Brown to Astoria? I could picture him so easily on the stage at the Liberty Theater. It felt perfectly real to my mind's eye, and seemed like one of those rare moments when you have a flash of knowing something is meant to be.

When he had finished, I approached him and introduced myself. Jericho is someone you have to love immediately. Within minutes, we were laughing together and talking about the power of poetry. I asked him if he'd heard of Astoria and if he would be interested in coming here. I told him how unique the community is, how beautiful the setting. I can be very persuasive, and Astoria is a very easy place to sell.

As we made plans that day, neither of us, of course, had any idea what was coming. We didn't know a global pandemic would soon be unleashed, upending all sense of normalcy. We couldn't have predicted then the tragic death of George Floyd and the rise of Black Lives Matter. The event we planned so innocently that day would have to be reinterpreted virtually for our 2020 Literary Ball. So the day after the 2020 Presidential election, with the outcome still hanging in the balance, I spoke again with Jericho Brown, this time via Zoom from his home in Atlanta. We had both passed long, agonizing nights, and spoke that morning hungover with fear. So much had changed since we met at the art museum in Portland, and our conversation was laced with upheaval and loss.

But as we talked, tried to laugh our way through, and found our way back to the words

we both work with as an artistic medium, we returned, again, to his beautiful and brilliant work, and found that it alone was still familiar and true—not the same, of course, because nothing would ever be the same, but the creative work remained for us, as art and truth are always there for us as humans—the only unchanging rock, it seems at times, in a sea of change and loss. The words stood between us as a mirror we could raise to begin to reflect and process where we had been and where we were trying, so imperfectly, to go.

So now, at last on November 5th, Jericho Brown is coming to Astoria. He's coming to give workshops, to share his profound insight as a black, gay poet, and to speak of loss and hope in the language of poetic artistry, of which he is a consummate master.

His visit is the culmination of that flash of inspiration I felt years ago in a gallery at the Portland Art Museum. His work is an invitation. It is an admonishment and a reckoning. His words will grab you by the throat and heart and will not let you leave unchanged. His visit is a gift I cannot wait to share with a community I love.

Astoria has responded overwhelmingly to Jericho's visit. The Heritage Museum is staging an adjacent exhibition on exclusion practices in the region beginning in October. Sponsored in collaboration with the Clatsop Community College DEI committee, Zachary Stocks of Oregon Black Pioneers will present at the college on the history of black settlers in the state on October 19th. The Q. Center and the Elliot Hotel are sponsors for the November events, and we've received generous donations from local businesses for the VIP reception. Grant funding by Clatsop County Cultural Coalition and Oregon Cultural Trust has helped make it possible. The poet will do a presentation to area high schoolers at Seaside High School followed by a smaller group creative writing workshop. In the afternoon, he'll be welcomed to Clatsop Community College for a creative writing intensive for college students and area writing educators. That evening, there will be a VIP reception followed by a conversation and reading on the stage of the Liberty Theater.

We hope you'll join us.

As a Human Being

There is the happiness you have
And the happiness you deserve.
They sit apart from one another

The way you and your mother
Sat on opposite ends of the sofa
After an ambulance came to take

Your father away. Some good
Doctor will stitch him up, and
Soon an aunt will arrive to drive

Your mother to the hospital
Where she will settle next to him
Forever, as promised. She holds

The arm of her seat as if she could
Fall, as if it is the only sturdy thing,
And it is since you've done what

You always wanted. You fought
Your father and won, marred him.

He'll have a scar he can see all
Because of you. And your mother,
The only woman you ever cried for,

Must tend to it as a bride tends
To her vows, forsaking all others
No matter how sore the injury.

No matter how sore the injury
Has left you, you sit understanding
Yourself as a human being finally

Free now that nobody's got to love you.

By Jericho Brown
Lyric Poetry Award 2017 –
Poetry Society of America

RETURNING post-COVID sabbatical to the Liberty Theatre this October, AIFF offers a range of genre, from classics to camp, award-winning short film and documentary—at the helm, founding creator Ron Craig. While the festival traditionally features filmmaker Q&As, and fun-filled accompanying events, let us bless a paired down version, and sheer delight of opportunity to sit together in the dark, and share the illuminating screen, and Ron Craig's vision of supporting independent filmmakers, regional to international, and the wide pan shot of the history of film.

Craig's featured guest speaker this month, was to be Sandra Niemi, former Astorian, and author of *Glamour Ghouls, The Passion and Pain of the Real Vampira*. Festival goers will enjoy two Vampira films. One, the Hollywood B film, Ed Wood's *Planet 9 from Outer Space*, and a 1995 Finnish documentary, *Vampira: About Sex, Death, and Taxes* by Mika Ripatti.

Due to COVID risks Sandra Niemi will not be in the house... Halloween Boo! Nor will there be an originally planned Vampira costume fest at the Labor Temple. This too shall pass.

(Hang in there Terri/Todd and the LT crew).

But ... we can still celebrate a Hollywood Icon, and an Astoria Finn's rise to cult status. In this case, follow the rambling steel blue river, rather the yellow brick road. Maila (Niemi) Nurmi graduated from Astoria High School in 1940. She headed to LA to catch a star, migrated to NYC doing time as a model and actress, relying upon chiseled Finnish cheekbones, an hourglass figure and dare say, supernatural Sisu.

Upon attending a fancy event, the Bal Caribe Masquerade in a costume inspired by character Morticia Addams in *The New Yorker* cartoons of Charles Addams, she drew the attention of a TV producer in the Horror movie biz.

The rest, is lots of history about an independent women who rose to status as a trend setting vampire, and as a cult figure in a succeeding era. While cartoon, fairytale and literary versions of a mythic dark queen permeate culture, Maila Nurmi initiated a live portrayal on stage and screen in the Hollywood book of tales.

Her life and creative ventures are equally fascinating on and off screen.

- Dinah Urell



AIFF 2021 Astoria International Film Festival October 22-24 at The Liberty Theatre.

Tickets: \$10 or \$60 Full Pass. libertyastoria.showare.com

NOUS DEUX ENCORE & PLYMPTOONS

Friday, October 22, 6pm

An award-winning 2009 Cannes, French Documentary about love, and loss. Plymptoons: A collection of short animated films from Academy Award nominated animator, graphic designer, cartoonist, and filmmaker, Bill Plympton.

PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE

Friday, October 22, 8:30pm

Ed Wood's cult classic, featuring a host of cemetery favorites including Vampira and Bela Lugosi, are in a plot for UFO's to take over the San Fernando Valley, and the world.

MAIDEN

Saturday, October 23, 12pm

Documentary. The first all-female crew in 1989 in open-yacht racing via the Whitbread Round the World Race prove able and successful competitors.

SOME LIKE IT HOT

Saturday, October 23, 2:15pm

Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis do it right, do it jazzy. What's not to love in this classic comedy/romance.

VAMPIRA: ABOUT SEX, DEATH & TAXES

Saturday, October 23, 7:30 PM

Obscure Finnish doc about the Finnish Vampire.

FAHRENHEIT 451

Sunday, October 24, 11am

Based on the 1951 Ray Bradbury novel of the same name.

ZORBA THE GREEK

Sunday, October 24, 1:30pm

Actor Anthony Quinn tour de force.

Portland's BodyVox • Oct 16 Does BloodyVox at the Liberty

SPEND A SPOOKY OCTOBER night in one of Astoria's most famously haunted places! Start with a group of beautiful and talented dancers,

add a hint of Hitchcock, a touch of Vampire, top it off with a healthy dose of ghosts and zombies and you get BLOODYVOX, a dance theater experience that mines cinema, folklore and our collective nightmares to bring the season of spirits and All Hallows Eve to life. Funny, bloody, and full of great dancing, this is Halloween as only BodyVox can imagine it. This delightfully creepy show is a must see for the entire family! Costumes encouraged...

Saturday, Oct 16, 7pm. Reserved Seating \$27, \$22, \$18. Doors open at 6pm, tickets available in the Liberty Box Office or online: www.libertyastoria.org.



Witches, Wizards And Waffles! Sparrow Dance Company Oct 29 - 30 • FREE Kid's Event

SPARROW DANCE COMPANY is bringing Witches, Wizards and Waffles, 30 minutes of Halloween entertainment and imaginative opportunities for children. Come at dusk and howl with Willard the Wizard and cackle with Brunhilda the Witch. Enjoy Halloween themed dances and find out what's brewing in the cauldron. Light hearted and perfect for those preschoolers and early elementary age. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes and masks. Join the fun at the Garden of Surging Waves Follow Facebook page Sparrow Dance Company Astoria or website sparrowdancecoastoria.org for performance updates due to weather. Sparrow Dance Company will be following CDC guidelines surrounding COVID 19, please maintain social distancing precautions. Following CDC recommendations there will be no candy distributed.

Oct 29th 6:30pm and 30th 5:30 & 6:30 at the Garden of Surging Waves in Astoria.



ASTORIA WARMING CENTER

**Stay Safe!
Wear
Your Mask**

In Gratitude to our
Community for your
Generous Support

**Donations
Needed:
belts, outdoor
shoes, and
men's pants!**

www.astoriawarmingcenter.org

First United Methodist Church
1076 Franklin St. Astoria, OR

Lower level, 11th Street entrance
Phone: 503-468-8176

CLATSOP COUNTY ART CONTEST!

Design The Harbor's Youth IG Logo
Deadline for submissions Nov. 1, 2021

- The Harbor would like to focus the work of youth (ages 13-24).

scan the code for full details →

OCTOBER • 22 • 23 • 24 • 2021

14th ANNUAL

ASTORIA

INTERNATIONAL

FILM FESTIVAL

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE LIBERTY THEATRE BOX OFFICE
FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF FESTIVAL FILMS VISIT
GOAIFF.COM

REOPENINGS

Coaster Theatre

AFTER 18 MONTHS OF CLOSURE due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Coaster Theatre Playhouse will reopen Friday, Oct. 1, with the drama, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Mask and vaccination requirements will be in place.

Written by Oscar Wilde and adapted by Gloria Gonzales, the play involves Dorian Gray, a wealthy and beautiful young man who sits for a portrait. He worries that his youth and beauty will fade. Dorian curses the portrait, which he believes will one day remind him of the beauty he has lost. In a fit of distress, he pledges his soul if only the painting bears the burden of age, allowing him to stay forever young. He has made a pact with the devil.

This sets Dorian on a dark path that twists his soul while he keeps the appearance of youth and beauty as time moves forward.

Coaster Theatre Executive Director Patrick Lathrop directs the play. The cast includes Katherine Lacaze (Dorian Gray), Margo McClellan (Margaret), John Hoff (Lord Henry Wotton), Rhonda Warnack (Lady Henry Wotton), Terri Baier (Sybil Lane) and Margaret Hammitt-McDonald (Mrs. Lane).

Crew members include Colleen Toomey, stage manager; Judith Light, costumes; Mick Alderman, set builder and light and sound designer; Juan Lira, set painter; and Nancy McCarthy, light booth operator.

To ensure everyone's safety, patrons must show proof that they are fully vaccinated when they enter the Coaster Theatre. Patrons may display proof of vaccination with the original vaccination card, a legible copy of



The Picture of Dorian Gray

Dorian Gray Cast Members: (L to R) Margo McClellan, Katherine Lacaze, John Hoff, Terri Baier

their vaccination card or a legible digital copy of their vaccination card in addition to a matching photo ID.

Those unable to be vaccinated, such as children under 12, people with medical conditions preventing vaccination, or those with religious beliefs that prohibit vaccination, must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of the performance start time in addition to a matching photo ID.

Face coverings also are required at all times for everyone inside the theater regardless of vaccination status. Acceptable face coverings are listed on the theatre's website.

Any patron not wearing a face covering, regardless of a medical exemption or age, will not be admitted to enter the Coaster Theatre. Anyone who does not wear a face covering inside at all times will be asked to leave the theatre. No exceptions will be made to the face covering policy.

Performances: at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 30. Admission is \$20; tickets can be purchased at the theatre box office (503-436-1242) or online at coastertheatre.com. Space is limited as seats will be socially distanced by groups.

Author/Painter Chris Minnick at West Coast Artisans



ASTORIA-BASED AUTHOR and painter Chris Minnick will be signing his books and discussing his abstract paintings at **West Coast Artisans during Astoria's 2nd Saturday ArtWalk on October 9, 2021 from 5-7 pm.**

Minnick has had over a dozen books about computer programming and the internet published since 1998, and he has been writing fiction for as long as he can remember. Chris published his first novel, *Ferment*, in 2017, and his 2nd, *Pickled Punk*, in 2019. His third novel, *Music For Losers*, is currently in search of a publisher.

Music For Losers tells the story of a road trip involving a tycoon, a chimpanzee, and an anarchist and the events that led up to the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901.

His writing style has been compared to Kurt Vonnegut and Charles Bukowski.

Chris studied creative writing, film, journalism, and photography in his hometown of Detroit and has been learning to paint from local painters Jill McVarish and Robert Paulmenn. According to Chris, "I'm fortunate to count among my friends two great painters with different styles who have been more than generous with their time, knowledge, and patience."



Queequeg 2021

His current paintings, which are available through West Coast Artisans, are complex, colorful, and textured abstracts with titles inspired by literature. Of the similarities between his writing and painting, Minnick says, "I like to watch for patterns to organically emerge from chaos. I find that layering in more characters, colors, and whatever else often results in something unexpectedly harmonious."

The Weir by Conor McPherson Ten Fifteen Theatre

AFTER THE LONGEST INTERMISSION, Ten Fifteen Productions announces the (re)opening of *The Weir* by Conor McPherson. This play, directed by Karen Bain, originally opened (and closed) on March 13th, 2020.

In a bar in rural Ireland, the local men swap spooky stories in an attempt to impress a young woman from Dublin who recently moved into a nearby "haunted" house. However, the tables are soon turned when she spins a yarn of her own.

Featuring Mick Alderman, William Ham, Bennett Hunter, Nancy Montgomery, and Stephen Wood.

COVID-19 Policies: The Ten Fifteen Theater is committed to providing a safe environment for cast, crew, volunteers, and patrons during the COVID-19 pandemic. In keeping with the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Oregon Health



The Weir Cast: (L to R) Bennett Hunter, William Ham, Stephen Wood, Mick Alderman and Nancy Montgomery

Authority. Please visit www.thetenfifteentheatre.com for these guidelines.

Performances: October 15 - October 30 with performances at 7:30pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and 3:30pm on Sunday. Tickets \$20, in advance online at www.thetenfifteentheater.com/tickets. Due to the nature of the production, no late seating will be allowed.

Hoffman Gallery Squid Show

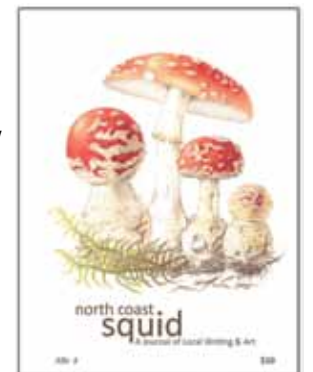
CELEBRATING THE ART of the North Coast Squid, the Hoffman Gallery's October 2021 show features the work of 20 artists published in Issue #8 of the magazine, a publication of local writing and art produced by the Hoffman's Writing Program.

Two works by each artist are on display in the Gallery: the piece that was selected for publication in the magazine and another of the artist's choice. Some artists focus on coastal themes, while others explore different subject matter and abstract concepts. The show contains work in a wide range of media, such as watercolor, oil, and acrylic painting; photography and computer-generated images; and 3-D sculptural pieces in ceramic, wood, and woven materials. Check out one of those images for each artist here.

Also on sale in the Gallery is the *North Coast Squid* magazine itself: 74 pages of writing and art, representing the work of 63 contributors who have a close connection to our region and community.

Register for the official launch event for the Squid is Saturday, October 2, 4-5:30pm, via Zoom, which features an overview of the Gallery Show and readings by 10 writers whose work appears in the magazine.

View Thursday through Sunday, 1-5pm, September 30 - October 31. The Hoffman Center Gallery is located at 594 Laneda Avenue in Manzanita.



Cover Art by Dorota Haber-Lehigh

art happens *openings and news in the LCPR*

Pana O'ahu: Sacred Stones, Sacred Land LightBox Gallery

LIGHTBOX Photographic Gallery opens Pana O'ahu on Saturday, October 9th from 12 - 7pm. The exhibit consists of photographic prints from large format film negatives exposed on the Island of Oahu in the 1990's by photographer Jan Becket. The images are from the book Pana O'ahu: Sacred Stones, Sacred Land (University of Hawai'i Press, 1999). Images are of heiau, Hawaiian ceremonial temples and smaller shrines of the maka'ainana, the common people. There had been a survey of these sites on O'ahu in the early 1930s and another partial survey in the early 1950s but nothing since. 140 ceremonial sites were visited on O'ahu, some of which were unrecorded. A few no longer exist, having been sacrificed to development. It took 12 years to create the images.

These prints help preserve to the historical record images of cultural and sacred sites on the Island. The LightBox directors spent years on the Islands until 1996, the images in the Exhibit are,



Jan Becket, Alala

in their mind, of a special place and time, and an incredible accomplishment by the photographer.

LightBox is open 12 - 7pm on opening day, October 9. Vaccinations are required and you must wear a mask. FMI: lightbox-photographic.com/shows/. 503-468-0238 or info@lightboxphotographic.com.

LightBox is located at 1045 Marine Drive in Astoria, Wednesday – Saturday, 12 - 5pm.

Sou'Wester Lodge Multi-media Artist Taylor Jensen-Lindsey

SOU'WESTER LODGE presents artist Elijah Jensen-Lindsey. Jensen-Lindsey is a self-taught, multi-media artist who currently resides in Nampa, Idaho. His career as a carpenter and craftsman informs his esoteric methodology, and has afforded him distinct opportunities within the intersection of visual art and the built, living environment.

Working alongside world-renowned artist Theaster Gates, Jensen-Lindsey played an active role in the renovation of an after-school arts program in St. Louis in 2013. A recipient of grants from The Idaho Commission on the Arts and Boise Weekly, he has shown his artwork in Boise; Reno, Nevada; Brooklyn, New York; and St. Louis, Missouri. He was awarded top prize in the 2020 Idaho Triennial.



As a musician, Jensen-Lindsey engages with the traditions of folk, pop and noise music as a means of exploring the beautiful terrains of the written and spoken word. He lives with a Siamese cat named Hummingbird, who lovingly guards the porch and a fox squirrel named Juniper who takes joy in sweeping.

Opening Reception: October 29, 5-8pm with performance by Elijah + refreshments. Show runs Oct 29 to Jan 16.



Roy Sanchez, Post-It Portrait

ASTORIA VISUAL ARTS (AVA) invites member artists and writers to come together for an exhibit highlighting the creative talent of AVA supporters. Current members are invited to submit up to 2 pieces of any media to the AVA Gallery, located at 1000 Duane Street in Astoria, Wednesday, October 6 from 4pm to 6pm or Thursday, October 7 from 10am to 12pm. Space is limited, so if artwork is relatively large, only one piece may be exhibited. Writers may submit up to 2 display ready prose of short projects. The exhibit runs October 9 through November 6 with the opening reception during Art Walk on Saturday, October 9 from noon to 8pm.

Annual AVA Members' Meeting

Astoria Visual Arts (AVA) invites the public to join the annual members meeting on Saturday, October 16 from 11am to 12pm. This year the meeting will be virtual. Anyone can join from their phone or computing device. You do not need to be a member to attend. Everyone is welcome to share ideas, learn about AVA's programs and how we serve the community. Former and current AVA artists-in-residence, Kristen Nekovar and Deanna Antony, will give brief presentations about their artwork and their experience with the AVA a-i-r program. **All attendees will be entered to win a raffle of a free "POST - IT PORTRAIT" BY ROY SANCHEZ (ig:@roysanchezart). Other prizes may be awarded as well. Learn more at www.astoriavisualarts.org.**

Trail's End Gallery Syrena Glade: Memories of Travel

TRAIL'S END GALLERY opens a new show for the month of October as part of the Gearhart Art Walk on October 2, featuring artist Syrena Glade. Her show is entitled "Memories of Travel". A reception is slated for 2pm to 5pm on Oct. 2. Also view Trail's End member work.

Syrena grew up in rural Oregon between Corvallis and Waldport and now lives in Hillsboro. She created art throughout her youth and college years, but after college she stopped. In 2015 she dusted off an



Cherry Blossoms

old (20+ years) watercolor palette, took a few classes, and started painting again. She's traveled in western Europe, Canada, and the US, and uses the hundreds of photos she's taken as inspiration. Her photos hang on the library wall of the Blue Sky gallery in Portland, but watercolor is still her favorite.

Before March 2020, one of her favorite things to do was to take her travel watercolor kit and paint in a pub while listening to live music. Painting in poor light provides a particular challenge. During the quarantine, her studio space was overtaken by a home office for her day job, so she shifted her focus to other mediums and smaller pieces. She loves the challenge of stepping outside her comfort zone. Meet and chat with Syrena at the Oct 2 Art Walk.

Browse the Trail's End gallery for giclee, watercolors, acrylics, photography, collage, cards, and gifts. The gallery is open 11-3pm, Fri-Sun. FMI: join Trail's End, learn about events and the newsletter, visit www.trailsendart.org or call 503 717-9458. Located at 656 A Street in Gearhart.

Carnival Time At Astoria Art Loft

OCTOBER AT ASTORIA ART LOFT is carnival time. It's filled with The Greeting Card Extravaganza, a 4 -Saturday morning class in calligraphy, a 4-Saturday children's artworkshop, dinosaurs, collage, and more. On-going classes in fused and mosaic glass, watercolor and other water media, drawing and more keep art juices flowing. Dinosaur lovers should meet Strappy before he returns to his home for Halloween (Oct. 29), and pet Caddie and La Bella the Long-Eared Bat. Paintings of endangered species in the gallery remind us of the fragile nature of our planet. Individual exhibits at each studio, remembrances of the June Children's Art Workshop, and unusual jewelry add to the festivities.

The Greeting Card Extravaganza offers cards for all occasions including birthday, holidays, sympathy, thank you, congratulations, and much more. Many of the cards are originals and others are prints. Some humorous, while others are quietly beautiful. Multiple copies of cards and personalized cards can be ordered. Special calligraphy messages will be available. Greeting card messages are very special, reassuring, and healing during the pandemic when personal contacts are so limited.

Astoria Art Loft is at 106 Third Street in Astoria. Open Tues – Sat, 10am-4pm and by appt. Join The Art Loft for Second Saturday Artwalk on Oct. 9 from 1 – 4 p.m.



We have our masks on
and await you
and your art.

**New Hours:
Tues - Fri 11-4
Saturday 10-5**

Need an appointment
call us
503.325.5221
Downtown Astoria



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CCC Art Gallery Opens Season with a Dual Exhibition of "Moving" Paintings

CLATSOP COMMUNITY COLLEGE Royal Nebeker Art Gallery will open this year's exhibition season with a show celebrating in-person engagement with visual art. *Entitled Being Moved: Paintings by Richard Motchman and Into a Study by Paul X Rutz and Developmental Psychologist Jennifer Drake*, the show will run from **November 1st through January 10th, with a reception and artist talk scheduled for Thursday, November 4th at 6pm**. The gallery reception and exhibit are free and open to the public. As a thank you for participating in the study conducted by Rutz and Drake, the first 100 respondents will receive a signed, numbered print of one of the paintings in this show.

Canadian Richard Motchman will exhibit life-size figurative paintings featuring movable parts. The artist explains that the viewer's physical interaction with his work "is at the heart of my art practice and is meant to expand the definition of painting." His work is designed to spark "engagement on the part of the viewer as they make choices about how the imagery of the painting is seen." Also exhibited in this show will be "Fragment Studies" of the human form.

Motchman created his first interactive paintings in 1998 and has practiced this approach in various forms ever since. His paintings have been shown in solo exhibitions in Canada and group exhibitions in both Canada and the US. They reside in private collections in Canada, the US and England. www.motchman-art.com.

Paired with Motchman's work is a group of paintings designed to advance the science of art: INTO A STUDY, a collaboration between **artist Paul X Rutz and developmental psychologist Jennifer Drake**. This collection of never-before-seen paintings doubles as a science experiment about how viewers perceive and understand art.

Detail: Into A Study, Rutz & Drake

Using a smartphone or tablet, viewers (age 18 and up) may scan the QR code provided and follow the directions to answer a few questions as they look at each of 12 paintings in this series.

After viewers contribute their insights about the artworks on display, the collaborators plan to publish this data for both the art and science communities. As mentioned above, viewers who participate in the study will receive a signed, numbered print from Rutz and Drake while supplies last.

Paul Xavier Rutz is a painter and installation artist. As an art writer he has contributed to Huffington Post, Modern Fiction Studies, The Smart Set, and Cincinnati Review, among others. He has held solo shows at the Oregon Military Museum and several academic galleries, as well as group shows at Mark Woolley Gallery and the Smithsonian Institution. <https://paulrutz.com/>.

Jennifer Drake is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Her research focuses on the psychology of the visual arts, including the cognitive, perceptual and emotional processes underlying involved in graphic representation.

WORKSHOP

In conjunction with this show, Motchman and Paul Rutz will team up to lead a workshop entitled *Playing with the Picture Plane* scheduled for Friday, November 5, 10:30am to 2pm.

Students enrolled at CCC may take the workshop free of charge, and members of the community may participate for a \$25 fee if space is available. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required.

For further details about the workshop, a materials list, and to register, contact Kristin Shauck by phone (503-338-2472) or e-mail kshauck@clatsopcc.edu.



Motchman, Eye



RIVERSEA GALLERY presents three solo shows: Islands, watercolor portraits designed to appear as vintage photographs by **Benz and Chang**; **New Paintings and Fables**, narrative portraits of animals and birds by Kathleen Powers; and Memento Mori, talismanic jewelry by Tabor Porter. Opening date is Saturday, October 9, with a reception from 12:00 to 8:00 pm during Artwalk. Meet the artists after 5:00 pm, and view the shows in the gallery through November 9, 2021.

Inspiration for Islands came through a literary connection. The show's title refers to The Island of Dr. Moreau, the 1896 classic sci-fi novel by H.G. Wells. Benz and Chang were commissioned by fine art publisher Suntup Editions to illustrate a limited edition of the book, released this summer on the 125th anniversary of the novel's first publication. The seven paintings included in the book will be featured in this show. Notes Benz, "I imagined what would happen if a photographer visited the island when it was written in the 1890s, and took formal portraits of the characters of the book. I was aiming to create psychological portraits, revealing the personalities of the subjects, along with their reactions to their situations in the story."



K. Powers, The Tomcat

have each become symbols of something larger than themselves," says Benz.

In **New Paintings and Fables**, Oregon artist **Kathleen Powers** exhibits portraits of animals and birds anthropomorphized to convey stories, and she's included her own charming and highly imaginative fables to accompany

Enchantment, Fables, And Supernatural Elements

most of the works in this show.

Powers' narrative artwork and stories honor animals and birds as a vital part of our ecosystem. She views them as, "intelligent, highly adaptive survivors and protective parents to their young," and focuses on those species we often think of only as pets or pests.

Astoria metalsmith Tabor Porter shows his inventive jewelry in **Memento Mori**, a collection of new works inspired by the widely practiced celebration of the Day of the Dead.

A collector of esoteric vintage objects since childhood, Porter creates modern-day talismans with a sense of ancient history and magic. These pieces are a remarkable amalgamation of layered metals embossed with intricate designs and eclectic objects from the artist's collection, embellished with various gems.



T. Porter, 3 mask pendants

RiverSea Gallery is open daily at 1160 Commercial Street in Astoria. Monday through Saturday, noon to 5; Sunday, noon to 4. 503-325-1270 riverseagallery.com.

Ruth Shively at IMOGEN Gone Fishin' The Art of Rest & Relaxation

IMOGEN hosts a solo exhibition for Portland artist Ruth Shively. Known for her distinct style of figurative work Shively shifts gears from her typical subject matter for this series but her strong and deliberate use of brush stroke stays primary to her work. *Gone Fishin'*: The Art of Rest & Relaxation opens during Astoria's Second Saturday Artwalk, Saturday October 9th 12 – 8 pm. Shively will be present and available to answer questions about her work from 5 – 8 pm that evening. The exhibition will remain on view through November 8th.

Not new to Imogen, Shively has participated in the gallery's annual invitational portraiture exhibition, including her evocative and gestural portraits of mostly women. She is highly regarded for her use of broad, rich swathes of color defining composition through brushstroke. This element remains pinnacle to her work but within this series she introduces a narrative quality, bringing in a bit of storytelling.

A sense of ease and relaxation is prevalent to this new series, a ship moving across the horizon line, a group of young women picnicking perhaps lakeside and a young girl with her catch of the day are just a few examples of the idea of what the water's edge brings. A sense of nostalgia is ever present, a quiet nod to the past and perhaps an easier time where worries were abated simply by going fishing. She blends these obscure memories of time well spent with friends and families into something meaningful that nurtures psyche, giving

strength to move beyond what ever struggles life brings. Within her paintings, her figures always display a quiet ease of resilience and an innate sense of strength and beauty.

Shively grew up in the Midwest and has lived in Paris, New York City, Minneapolis and now Portland. She has exhibited her work in numerous group and solo exhibitions in Europe and NYC to LA with many venues in between. Her work has been featured in both Vice Magazine and 1859 Oregon's Magazine.

Imogen Gallery is located at 240 11th Street. Current business hours are Thurs thru Mon 12:00 to 5:00 and Sunday 12 – 4, closed Tues/Wed. 503.468.0620 www.imogengallery.com.



Girls Fish Too, 20 x16 oil on linen

ABOUT HOPE

By Kate Cooper • Animal Rescue Volunteer



MEET HOPE, she's a smashing young girl with a glint in her eye and a spring in her step! Hope is a two year old brindle Formosan Mountain Dog (FMD) rescued in Taiwan, and brought to California in July. She came to South Pacific County

Humane Society in August, and is already a shelter favorite! Hope is charming and active with a goofy sense of humor. An affectionate girl, she loves to cuddle. True to the FMD profile, she is agile, intelligent, and very trainable. Hope is very social not only with the shelter staff and volunteers but enjoys playing with the other young shelter dogs as well. She enjoys going for walks and is always ready and waiting when the dog walking team arrives. Dog walker Dawn Penny Brown says, 'I love Hope. She is such a sweet pup. She is keen to learn and very smart with a great temperament. I hope she finds her human soon!'

A bit more about the breed. Formosan Mountain Dogs typically live on the streets of Taipei. Their relatives live in locations across Asia and their ancestors have lived in close proximity to humans for thousands of years. In recent years, animal rescues have been rescuing these dogs from the streets in Taiwan, and bringing them to the United States, where they are establishing quite a following for

their positive traits and nice medium size! Hope is fully vetted, and was completely screened by veterinarians before leaving Taiwan. This lovely dog would be a great hiking partner, family dog, or perhaps even an agility dog. If you are interested in Hope or any of the shelter pets, please visit beachpets.com and follow the instructions for "Adopt". Staff will review your application, and will contact you to make arrangements for you to meet the pet in person. If you think Hope is the girl for you, fill out an application now!

If sounds like the girl for you, please go to WWW.BEACHPETS.COM and follow the links to Adopt. Once an application form has been completed, the shelter will reach out to arrange a meet and greet with Quinton. If you have more questions about Quinton you can call the shelter on 360 642 1180. The shelter runs a foster to adopt scheme, which means if you like you can foster a dog first before committing to adoption.

word wisdom

LEARNING TO LOVE one's self is often suggested as good mental health practice, but I suggest you start with learning to like yourself. Liking yourself means understanding criticism, a friend's oblivious response, and any bit of reality that calls for some self-evaluation. Liking yourself means giving yourself as much leeway and compassion as you would a friend. It's not blind love, it's a realistic "like."

Like and Love are two very sloppy words in our culture, vague and up for interpretation. People sabotage themselves in so many ways. It becomes harder to say with true sincerity, "Yes, I love myself." Liking, though, has a wider range of acceptance. It allows for less than perfect behavior. Humans are pretty harsh critics of themselves, with the exception of narcissists.

Do you like yourself? Would you want to be friends with someone just like you? Are you readily accepting of your own self-perceived limitations and flaws?

Love seems harder to practice in reality, especially when the word floats around like imaginary fairy dust, and is sometimes miniscule in meaning, such as "I love chocolate ice cream!" A person may know intimately the character flaws and dubious intentions that sometimes color a person's



behavior. In the early morning hours or late at night, a person may suddenly be jolted by the many times in a day when actions or thoughts were not motivated by love for another. Harder to like one's self, knowing he/she is capable of being cold, cruel or indifferent. Sometimes the bigger world feedback appears negative, feels negative, and yes, is negative. Any reason to like yourself less because someone chose to diminish your worth? A big fat no to that one. Here is where solid boundaries are useful. Boundaries are another column, already covered many times.

By Tobi Nason

In short, you get to defend the person you are, the person that you like. You get to be your own best friend.

Counselor's Advice: List attributes you consistently like about yourself. Anything. It can be physical: your hair, feet, physical strength, emotional—such as compassion for others, liking and loving others, mental health, are you able to function in the world, able to see the bigger picture, the light at the end of the tunnel? Personality traits: what do you personally like about yourself, something that has been a consistent feedback much to your pleasure?

There are so many self improvement guides, weight loss strategies, how to become bigger and better, how to achieve goals of all sorts. Some of this societal input can, and has, led to a certain amount of self loathing, rather than a motivational tool. Surely not a step in the right direction. Once you realize you like yourself, love will follow, in all forms: Self Love, Neighbor Love, Romantic Love, Higher Love.

Tobi Nason is a local counselor, (503)440-0587, Have a topic of concern? Email me at Tobicnason@gmail.com



A Special Request from the Dogs & Cats at the CLATSOP COUNTY SHELTER

We're a little low on supplies.
Would you please help?

Dog Food – Nature's Domain (Costco)

Cat Food – Nature's Domain (Costco)

Wet Dog Food & Pate style Cat Food

High Quality Kitten Food

50 Gallon Garbage Bags

13 Gallon Tall Kitchen Bags

Paper Towels

Dawn

Bleach

Cat Toys (No Catnip)

Dog Kongs (Black only please)

Feline Pine Cat Litter

Laundry Detergent (HE)

Also - We take Cash Donations!

**Clatsop County
Animal Shelter**
1315 SE 19th Street
Warrenton, OR 97146

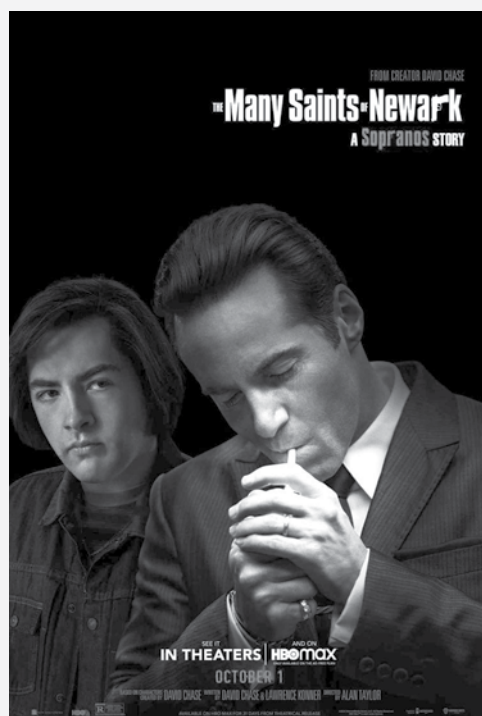
503-861-7387
Tuesday thru Saturday
Noon to 4pm



THE LOWER COLUMBIA CLINIC

Thomas S. Duncan, M.D. • Susan L Skinner, CNM, CFNP

595 18th, Astoria • 503-325-9131



Theatrical Releases

THE MANY SAINTS OF NEWARK (OCT. 1 ALSO HBO MAX) Fourteen years after the final episode of *The Sopranos*, creator David Chase returns with a prequel for the series set in Newark, New Jersey, circa late '60s to early '70s. While James Gandolfini's Tony Soprano was the undisputed center of the series, young Tony, played by Gandolfini's son, Michael, is just one of the family ensemble. Dickie Moltisanti (Alessandro Nivola), Christopher's father, is the center of the film. Conflict festers at home when Dickie's father Hollywood Dick (Ray Liotta) returns home from Sicily with young bride Giuseppina and promptly begins smacking her around, leading her to seek solace in the arms of Dickie. Meanwhile, young Tony begins his slow descent into crime, beginning with his tyrant of a father, Johnny Boy (Jon Bernthal), who is equally abusive to his young son as he is to



his wife Livia (Vera Farmiga). All the *Sopranos* regulars make appearances as their younger, but still recognizable selves.

NO TIME TO DIE (OCT. 8) Daniel Craig plays Bond for the final time in this long-awaited much delayed 25th entry in the series. Five years after the events of *Spectre*, Bond has left Mi6, and settled down to a life with Madeleine Swann (Lea Seydoux), when old friend Felix Leiter (Jeffrey Wright) recruits him to search for missing scientist, Valdo Obruchev. Bond discovers the scientist has been abducted by scarred villain Safin (Rami Malek), who sees himself as Bond's shadow equivalent – a killer whose plot could kill millions. It is revealed that Swann herself hides a secret from Bond, one that tie her to Safin. *No Time To Die* returns all the series regulars and adds two new female agents – Nomi (Lashan Lynch) an Mi6 agent who has been given the 007 number with Bond's retirement, and CIA agent Paloma (Ana de Armas).

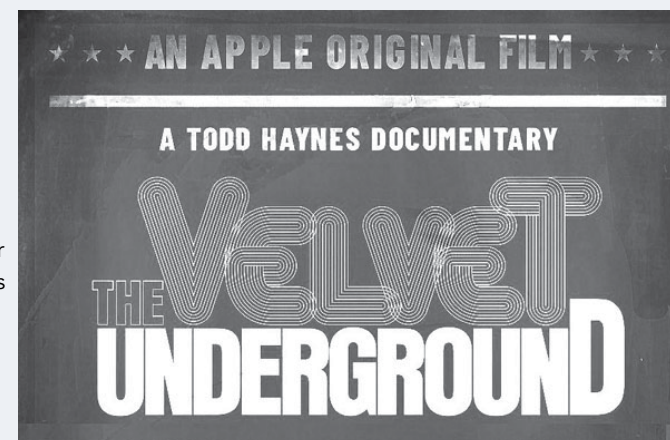
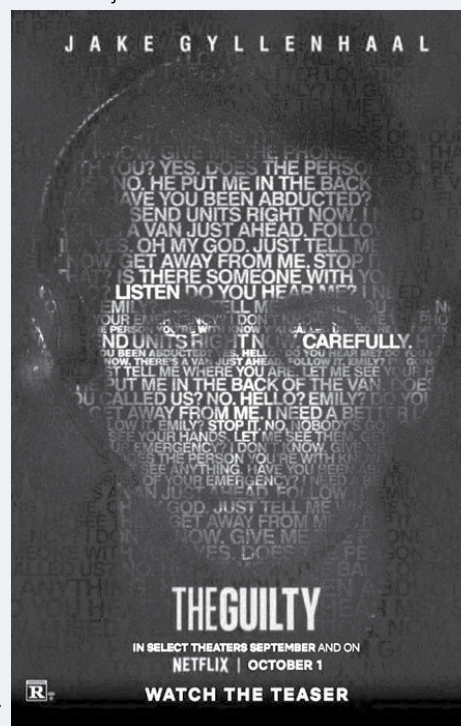
DUNE (OCT. 22 ALSO HBO MAX) Director Denis Villeneuve brings Frank Herbert's classic sci-fi novel to the screen. While Herbert's novel has inspired classic sci-fi films such as *Star Wars*, the scope of Herbert's sprawling novel, with its elaborate and complicated world and numerous characters has resisted previous attempts to make a coherent movie. Timothy Chalamet stars as Paul Atreides, son of Duke Atreides, leader of House Atreides. For 80 years the desert planet of Arrakis has been ruled by the Harkonnen, who mine a valuable substance called Spice. The indigenous people of Arrakis, the Fremen, are suppressed by the Harkonnen. But the emperor of House Harkonnen pulls his people out, leaving House Atreides to rule – or are they setting up House Atreides for a war? Paul seems to be the figure that will avoid a war, as he has visions of Chani (Zendaya), the Fremen warrior-protector. *Dune* has been titled Part I of a possible two-part series.

Streaming Releases

THE GUILTY (OCT. 1 NETFLIX) Jake Gyllenhaal toplines this remake of the 2018 Danish thriller. Gyllenhaal plays Joe Baylor, and LAPD cop relegated to 911 phone duty for reasons unexplained. Frustrated by the endless routine and crank calls, Baylor yearns to be out on the street again. Then, Baylor is riveted by a call from Emily (Riley Keough), who speaks to him as if she was calling a child. After nearly hanging up, Baylor asks a series of yes and no answer questions to Emily. Her answers lead him to believe she

has been abducted and is trapped in a vehicle driven by her estranged husband (Peter Saarsgard), leaving her two children alone at home. After researching her husband, Baylor finds he has a criminal record and drives a white van. Even after his shift ends, Baylor keeps on the case, trying to locate the white van and Emily's children. What he discovers turns everything he believes on its head.

MY NAME IS PAULI MURRAY (OCT. 1 AMAZON) RBG directors Julie Cohen and Betsy West return with a documentary covering a forgotten Black queer legal scholar whose efforts influenced Thurgood Marshall and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Born in the Jim Crow South in 1910, Murray from an early age struggled from gender identity. Today, she likely would be called trans. From humble beginnings, Murray fought racism and sexism, graduating from law school and becoming a brilliant legal scholar who used her skills to fight for social equality. Fifteen years before Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat, a full decade before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned separate-but-equal legislation, Pauli Murray was already knee-deep fighting for social justice.



WELCOME TO THE BLUMHOUSE (OCT. 1 AMAZON) A year ago, horror studio Blumhouse premiered four not-quite-horror films. The series continues with four new stories, mostly directed by women. *Bingo Hell* follows senior citizens fighting to protect their neighborhood from an evil force that's taken over the local bingo hall. *Black As Night* centers on a teenage girl with low self-esteem who finds confidence fighting vampires in New Orleans. In *Madres*, a Mexican-American couple who are expecting to move to a migrant farming community in 1970's California, where the wife experiences strange symptoms and terrifying visions.

DOPESICK (OCT. 13 HULU) Micheal Keaton stars in this limited series that depicts how one pharmaceutical company triggered the worst drug epidemic in American history. The series takes viewers to the epicenter of America's struggle with opioid addiction, from the boardrooms of Big Pharma, to a distressed Virginia mining community, to the hallways of the DEA. Defying all the odds, heroes will emerge in an intense and thrilling ride to take down the craven corporate forces behind this national crisis and their allies. Inspired by the bestselling book by Beth Macy.

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND (OCT. 15 APPLE TV+) Director Todd Haynes directs his first documentary on the legendary rock band The Velvet Underground. Aside from new interviews with original members Maureen Tucker and John Cale, and friends and relatives, the doc has gathered together practically every scrap of archival material – film footage, photos, interviews and of course, music available and has been stitched into a two hour, multiscreen homage of sorts to the underground, avant-garde, art scene from which the Velvets sprung. As underground film curator Jonas Mekas says in an interview: "We are not part of the counterculture. We are the culture."

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

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h	r	♂	↑	☉	✕	♂	☾
11°	6'	27°	7'	15°	64'	0°	48'

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Blogger AnaSophia was asked, “What do you find attractive in a person?” I’ll reproduce her reply because it’s a good time to think about what your answer would be. I’m not implying you should be looking for a new lover. I’m interested in inspiring you to ruminate about what alliances you should cultivate during the coming months. Here’s what AnaSophia finds attractive: “strong desire but not neediness, passionate sensitivity, effortlessness, authenticity, innocence of perception, sense of humor, vulnerability and honesty, embodying one’s subtleties and embracing one’s paradoxes, acting unconditionally and from the heart.”

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus author Roberto Bolaño confessed, “Sometimes I want greatness, sometimes just its shadow.” I appreciate his honesty. I think what he says is true about most of us. Is there anyone who is always ready for the heavy responsibility of pursuing greatness? Doubtful. To be great, we must periodically go through phases when we recharge our energy and take a break from being nobly ambitious. What about you, dear Taurus? If I’m reading the omens correctly, you will benefit from a phase of reinvention and reinvigoration. During the next three weeks, you’ll be wise to hang out in the shadows of greatness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): “Have fun, even if it’s not the same kind of fun everyone else is having,” wrote religious writer C. S. Lewis. That advice is ten times more important right now than it usually is. For the sake of your body’s and soul’s health, you need to indulge in sprees of playful amusement and blithe delight and tension-relieving merriment. And all that good stuff will work its most potent magic if it stimulates pleasures that are unique to you—and not necessarily in line with others’ tastes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): “It is one thing to learn about the past,” wrote Cancrian journalist Kenneth Auchincloss. “It is another to wallow in it.” That’s stellar advice for you to incorporate in the coming weeks. After studying your astrological omens, I’m enthusiastic about you exploring the old days and old ways. I’m hoping that you will discover new clues you’ve overlooked before and that this further information will inspire you to re-envision your life story. But as you conduct your explorations, it’s also crucial to avoid getting bogged down in sludgy emotions like regret or resentment. Be inspired by your history, not demoralized by it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Would you like to deepen and strengthen your capacity to concentrate? Cosmic rhythms will conspire in your favor if you work on this valuable skill in the coming weeks. You’ll be able to make more progress than would normally be possible. Here’s pertinent advice from author Harriet Griffey: “Whenever you feel like quitting, just do five more—five more minutes, five more exercises, five more pages—which will extend your focus.” Here’s another tip: Whenever you feel your concentration flagging, remember what it is you love about the task you’re doing. Ruminates about its benefits for you and others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What’s your favorite feeling? Here’s Virgo poet Mary Szybist’s answer to that question: hunger. She’s not speaking about the longing for food, but rather the longing for everything precious, interesting, and meaningful. She adores the mood of “not yet,” the experience of moving toward the desired thing. What would be your response to the question, Virgo? I’m guessing you may at times share Szybist’s perspective. But given the current astrological omens, your favorite feeling right now may be utter satisfaction—the gratifying sensation of getting what you’ve hungered for. I say, trust that intuition.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the English language, the words “naked” and “nude” have different connotations. Art critic Kenneth Clark noted that “naked” people depicted in painting and sculp-

ture are “deprived of clothes,” and embarrassed as a result. Being “nude,” on the other hand, has “no uncomfortable overtone,” but indicates “a balanced, prosperous, and confident body.” I bring this to your attention because I believe you would benefit from experiencing extra nudity and no nakedness in the days ahead. If you choose to take on this assignment, please use it to upgrade your respect and reverence for your beauty. PS: Now is also a favorable time to express your core truths without inhibition or apology. I urge you to be your pure self in all of your glory.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio poet Anne Sexton wrote, “One has to get their own animal out of their own cage and not look for either an animal keeper or an unlocker.” That’s always expert advice, but it will be extra vital for you to heed in the coming weeks. The gorgeous semi-wild creature within you needs more room to run, more sights to see, more adventures to seek. For that to happen, it needs to spend more time outside of its cage. And you’re the best person to make sure that happens.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian composer Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) could be a marvelous friend. If someone he cared for was depressed or feeling lost, he would invite them to sit in his presence as he improvised music on the piano. There were no words, no advice—only emotionally stirring melodies. “He said everything to me,” one friend said about his gift. “And finally gave me consolation.” I invite you to draw inspiration from his example, Sagittarius. You’re at the peak of your powers to provide solace, comfort, and healing to allies who need such nurturing. Do it in whatever way is also a blessing for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): At age 23, Capricorn-born Jeanne Antoinette Poisson (1721–1764) became French King Louis XV’s favorite mistress. She was not born into aristocracy, but she wielded her Capricornian flair with supreme effectiveness. Ultimately, she achieved a noble title as well as high prestige and status in the French court. As is true for evolved Capricorns, her elevated role was well-deserved, not the result of vulgar social-climbing. She was a patron of architecture, porcelain artwork, and France’s top intellectuals. She ingratiated herself to the King’s wife, the Queen, and served as an honored assistant. I propose we make her your role model for the next four weeks. May she inspire you to seek a boost in your importance and clout that’s accomplished with full integrity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The bad news is that artist Debbie Wagner was diagnosed with two brain tumors in 2002. The good news is that surgery not only enabled her to survive, but enhanced her visual acuity. The great news is that on most days since 2005, she has painted a new image of the sunrise. I invite you to dream up a ritual to celebrate your own victory over adversity, Aquarius. Is there a generous gesture or creative act you could do on a semi-regular basis to thank life for providing you with the help and power you needed?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A self-described “anarchist witch” named Lars writes on his Tumblr blog, “I am a ghost from the 1750s, and my life is currently in the hands of a group of suburban 13-year-olds using a ouija board to ask me if Josh from homeroom has a crush on them.” He’s implying that a powerful supernatural character like himself is being summoned to do tasks that are not worthy of him. He wishes his divinatory talents were better used. Are there any resemblances between you and him, Pisces? Do you ever feel as if you’re not living up to your promise? That your gifts are not being fully employed? If so, I’m pleased to predict that you could fix this problem in the coming weeks and months. You will have extra energy and savvy to activate your full potential.

Music’s Room

By Mary Lou McAuley

Tinny chords echoing
piano keys
hesitantly struck
then pounded into place.
Old linoleum
permanently scuffed
stubbornly buffed
bounces the sharps and flats
of each struck key.

The notes want to get out of this classroom
they remember what they should sound like.

The curled edges of each page
show the composer is Frederic Chopin.

But the notes will never leave,
the book’s title is their jailor

“Marches of Frederic Chopin:
For Beginners.”

POETRY VENUE Florence Sage

About The Poem:

Easy to picture this classroom, aged linoleum scuffed with children’s shoes. A child pounding the keys “into place.” You’ve heard kids play piano, unskilled but earnest, marches especially labored. This piano is an upright fit to learn on, no concert grand. A classroom is not ideal for music anyway, sharps and flats bouncing too sharp, too flat, off hard surfaces from the piano the school can’t afford to tune. The scene is vividly set with those few strokes, just a sketch.

There the poem turns fanciful: the notes on the pages are suffering – the most poetic emotion there is. Comes the coup de grace at the very last, that kills any chance the notes might have had to be their beautiful selves; the root problem is the book itself. Never will these notes be played the way Chopin intended, by competent hands. Only the feckless-fingered play from a book of simplified compositions labelled “For Beginners.” The notes are stuck in their suffering.

What a bright sketch. What an appealing idea. A sputter of surprise at the end. How quickly I sympathized with those notes of lovely Chopin’s, come all the way from Warsaw and Paris, come to this fate. The poet made them into feeling beings like us, with memories of what they were meant to be and can’t be, and I responded in kind: ‘Oh, you poor things!’ A wry twist of the brain I’ve come to listen for in McAuley’s succinct poems.

About the Poet:

Poet Mary Lou McAuley lives in Astoria with her husband, the painter Robert Paulmenn, and Lily Pajamas, their cat, who lounges on the poet’s notebook as Mary Lou writes by the window.

She wrote even as a child: breathy epics about storms and horses, lots of drama. She became a bookstore owner for a time, and has contributed essays, articles and poems to regional publications. Her first poetry collection was *The Other Door: Poems & Glimpses*, 2015; her second was *Nine Hundred Moon Journey: Poems & Encounters*, 2018. A third collection, *Terra Obscura: Poems & Hidden Maps*, is recently off the press and can be found in Astoria at The Secret Gallery, Lucy’s Books and RiverSea Gallery.

Mary Lou did yeoman’s duty for Ric’s Mic as MC for several years (“herding cats”). She read this poem from her new book live at Ric’s in August.

The Column: Poetry Venue selects a poem a month from active area poets. At this time, we draw from among poets reading at Ric’s Mic in Astoria at WineKraft, foot of 10th, 7 p.m. on first Tuesdays. “About the Poem” tells what struck the columnist most about the poem, and “About the Poet” gives readers a glimpse into who the poet is. Florence Sage is an Astoria poet, completing a third collection.

HOMEWORK. DESCRIBE THE STATUS QUO SITUATION YOU'RE TIRED OF, AND HOW YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE IT
NEWSLETTER@FREEWILLASTROLOGY.COM

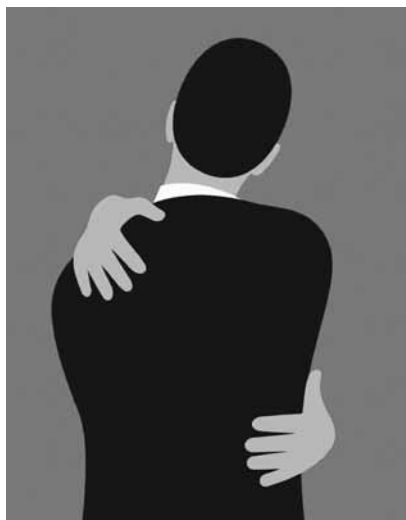
Why Is Narcissism So Common? A Progressive Explanation

WE ALL KNOW people who seek the limelight, troll for compliments, and insist that they deserve the best because, well, they are the best! Throw in lack of empathy and you have the recipe for narcissism.

For generations, popular psychology has offered explanations for the prevalence of narcissism in the United States. My generation—born in the late '60s and '70s—has been stamped “the Me Generation,” and Christopher Lasch’s 1979 book *The Culture of Narcissism* similarly criticized Baby Boomer hippies. These explanations rely on tropes familiar from conservative culture-wars discourse: those darn kids, spoiled by their permissive parents, showered with gold stars for everything in school, grow up to become entitled and self-centered. And here’s their remedy: a swift kick in the ego (and maybe the pants too).

This just-so story is unsatisfying for many reasons. For one, egocentricity is a developmental norm, allowing emerging adults to focus on their evolving identity and life goals. In addition, decrying permissive parenting implies a return to parenting styles that demolish children’s perseverance, faith in their own abilities, and that crucial sense that their parents will always be in their corner, even when the rest of the world is not.

The inflated show a narcissist puts on is only half the picture. Underneath the grandiosity lies a second, impoverished self, which fears that they’re really puny,



useless, and anything but special. If parenting and educational practices born of the self-esteem movement produced narcissists, why would an impoverished self be hiding behind the inflated self at all?

Instead of turning inward and pointing the finger at the family, why not consider how consumer culture and capitalism have done their part to manufacture narcissism?

As others have said before me, capitalism isn’t just an economic system, and consuming isn’t a straightforward act of purchasing and using necessary and/or desirable things. These two “Cs” have spawned a worldview: the commodification of everything from healthcare to housing to one’s own self. People are prompted to “sell themselves” to

get hired for a job, to be accepted into their college of choice, to find a partner, and more. Advertising has always been about more than just publicizing the existence of a product and touting its virtues. Advertisers hire psychologists to help create ads that tap into deep emotional needs, and a primary need in our social species is to be accepted by others, to belong, but also to stand out and be admired. Consumerism is predicated on the idea of fundamental lack: that we’re always missing something (the impoverished self, which feels hollow and empty at heart), and as the cultural critic John Berger said, we can fill in this emptiness by buying something more. Once we own this item, we can present our inflated selves more advantageously to the world, temporarily filling our emptiness with the attention and envy of others.

If we’d like to create a world where people don’t need to develop narcissistic traits, we need to oppose the commodification of the self and so much else of value beyond the monetary. We need more self-esteem, purpose, and meaning in our lives, not less. We need to foster the awareness that we are all valuable, both as individuals and for our contributions to our communities and our environment. Finally, let’s not forget that there’s a degree of self-regard that’s necessary for psychological health, a “healthy narcissism” that allows us to consider ourselves worthy of asserting our rights and making our voices heard.

SOU’WESTER ARTS & ECOLOGY CENTER Fall Programming • Sept 25 - Dec 18

Artist-led workshops in dye-making, painting, screen printing, drawing, clay, woodworking, foraging, wildcrafting, zines, comics, photography and more!



The Sou’ Wester Arts & Ecology Center is providing several unique learning opportunities this Fall! The After-school Program and Saturday Workshop series consists of a month-long Natural Dye Series as well as artist-led workshops in ceramics, woodworking, fiber arts, photography, silk screening, zine making, and more!

The After-school Program for youth 7-11 meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:30pm- 5:30pm with possible transportation from Long Beach Elementary. Tuition is \$75/week plus materials fee. To register for the After-School Program, go to the Souwesterlodge.com>Art>After School to fill out the form and proceed to payment.

The Saturday Workshop Series meets on Saturdays from 10am - 2pm. A multi-generational class, Saturday workshops are open to both adults and youth. Children under 12 are to be accompanied by an adult. Tuition for this separate program is \$50/class + materials fee. To register for a Saturday Workshop, go to the Souwesterlodge.com>Art>Workshops, to fill out the form and proceed to payment.

Classes begin September 25th and run through December 18th. All workshops will be held outdoors and masks are required for all students and teaching artists.

There are several Discounted Tuition Opportunities:

- All adult Natural Dye Workshops (Four Saturdays): 25% off
 - All youth Natural Dye Workshops (Four weeks and four Saturdays): 25% off
 - Sibling discount: 10% off
 - All After-school Workshops: 20% off
- Limited need-based scholarships

Please visit the Souwester website to find out more information about all of the awesome workshops planned!

The Sou’Wester Arts & Ecology Center also houses THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE COOP, a montessori-inspired learning community that focuses on experiential education, arts, and the environment. The Wave is offering two great programs this Fall:

- Preschool Aged Program: Starting Tuesday, September 7. Mon- Fri 8am – 3pm for children ages 30 month and up.
- Elementary Aged School Support + Enrichment: Starting Tuesday, September 14. Tues-Thurs 12PM- 3PM for youth ages 7-12 who are online learning or homeschooling.

To learn more or sign up for any of the Wave of the Future Programs, visit their website or email them at waveofthefuture-coop@gmail.com.

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YOU KNOW WHAT I DON'T GET? Besides everything, I mean. Because the older I get, the less I know for sure. I flew through the *If Only I Was Old Enough To Drive/ Move Out/Vote/Drink* phase, raced through the *Everything I Know is Absolutely Right And I Know Everything* phase and lingered in the *Okay, Maybe Not Everything But Enough To Fool Most People* phase. I am currently muddling through the *Everything You Know Is Wrong So Don't Think You're So Smart* phase.

My top ten list of things I don't get is most definitely a work in progress. Several times a day, something gets bumped in favor of a brand new 'Jeez! Really?' item. So, for today and in no particular order, here's what's got me flummoxed:

1. Why is politics the least politically correct thing? Because really, leaving most of us endlessly humiliated to be a part of the same species is exhausting.

2. Why are the 'developed nations' (I use the term exceedingly loosely) in a race to the bottom? Because really, if you want to sink to the bottom, all you have to do is nothing. You don't have to work so hard at it.

3. Why is science being trumped by religion on so many fronts? Because really, it's good to believe in something, but kind of dangerous to ignore what is known.

(I'm old enough to remember when the word 'trump' conveyed a specific idea without leaving one feeling vaguely queasy.)

4. Why have we forsaken spelling, punctuation and grammar in favor of the vastly inferior option of text-ese? (Not to be confused with 'testes'. If you are hip to spelling, punctuation and grammar, you know that). Because really, language is the most miraculous way to communicate. It

can be specific, poetic, hilarious and oh, so sexy. Short cuts strip it of its power rendering it weak and annoying. IMHO.

5. Why do people fear change? Because really, life is happening and being afraid all the time keeps one from really living it. How about we collectively crawl out from under the bed, saddle up and ride?

6. Why do cats invariably want to sit on the lap of the only person in the room who doesn't like cats? Because really, if you want to make a friend, this is counter-productive behavior. Unless you're a cat, I guess. Maybe then it can work for you.

7. Why, with 20,000 songs on 'shuffle', does the one I don't really like all that much always come up? Because really, the odds make that unlikely. I feel the Universe smirking when that happens. I know, I could delete it. I perversely continue to think it can't possibly happen again. Kind of like poking a bruise even though it hurts a little.

8. Why can't we feed and shelter everybody? Because really, these are simple tasks compared to quantum physics and moon shots (Not to be confused with Jello shots. If you are hip to language, you know that.) Where there is a will, there is a way may be true but, hungry and/or homeless folks have been left out of the will.

9. Why is everybody so jacked up about the Covid vaccine? Because really, we're talking about a poke in the arm meant to keep you alive to love your friends and family for years to come. Do you actually think that a flu shot is more dangerous than getting Covid, sharing it with the aforementioned friends and family and maybe dying to boot? Do you? See #3 above.

10. What's for dinner? Because really, I have my priorities straight.

CHEW ON THIS!

by Merianne Myers



CLEAN OUT THE GARDEN SAVORY PIE

• Every ingredient in this pie is optional save for the crust and the egg custard. Use what you have, it's a different pie every time. Here's what I did most recently:

- One pre-baked pie crust
- Big handful of Chanterelles or the mushrooms of your dreams
- 3 or 4 scallions, sliced
- A shallot or a small onion, diced
- 1 serrano chili, chopped
- 4 slices of pepper bacon, diced
- 1 roasted red pepper, chopped
- A carrot or two, diced
- Handful of green beans, cut into 1" pieces
- Handful of green peas
- Handful of cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 2 Tablespoons of mixed fresh herbs (parsley, chives, oregano, thyme, basil, tarragon, whatever you have is fine), chopped
- 3 ounces chèvre or feta or grated cheese of your choice
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 3/4 cup half and half
- 3 large eggs
- Tiny grate of nutmeg
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 4 and 20 blackbirds, optional

• I blanched the carrots and green beans for a minute or two. It's optional. Sauté bacon until just barely crisp, remove and drain. Add onion, carrots and mushrooms, cook until just barely softened. Add beans and peas, stirring just until warm. Remove from heat, add roasted pepper, scallions, fresh herbs and tomatoes and toss. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

• Beat eggs, milk, cream and nutmeg together, seasoning with salt and pepper.

• Fill pie shell with vegetable mixture, dot with cheese, pour custard over everything. Bake at 350 for 30 to 40 minutes or until custard is set.



OSU Extension Offering Virtual Babysitting Classes for Youth!

Clatsop County Extension is offering babysitting classes to youth ages 10 and up. This training is designed to train youth in many aspects of babysitting including baby care, toddler care, healthy snacks, business tips, age appropriate games, first aid and safety. There is no charge for this series.

The classes will be 1 hour for 4 days. The first series offered is on November 1, 2, 8 and 9 and a second series will be offered February 1, 3, 8, and 10, 2022. We will be offering two different time slots on each day; from 4 to 5pm or 6 to 7pm during both series. Youth who attend all four sessions will get a certificate of completion. Register by October 21 for the Nov. series at <https://beav.es/UcN>

This will be the second year we are offering these Babysitting classes statewide. This past year there were 480 youth from 28 different counties in Oregon who completed the course which was taught by 28 4-H Educators from around the state. For questions or more information about the program email sandra.carlson@oregonstate.edu or call Sandra at 360-942-9763.

OSU offers its programs equally to all people ages 5 to 19. For more information about 4-H membership or 4-H leadership, call the Clatsop County Extension office at 503-325-8573.

Manzanita Men's Group



Where: Nehalem City Park, Nehalem, Oregon: From US 101 in Nehalem, turn South on 10th St. and then right on Tohls Street and follow it up the hill and around to the left to the park.

When: Sunday evening, October 3, TIME 4:00pm - 6:00pm
TOPIC TO SPEAK TO THIS WEEK: "My Aspirations — From the Past and Active in the Present."

What to bring: A Chair. And a MASK to wear if you are not fully vaccinated or are concerned about contracting the Corona Virus. We can maintain physical distance while connecting socially.

Why: It would benefit all to experience a more diverse circle of men - all ages - all walks of life - all points of view. Let's expand the possibilities.

How: Each man adds to the evening. We all have connection to a vast knowledge. The group intelligence is more expansive than the individual awareness. There is a great release and power in sharing our wisdom and our vulnerabilities.

Confidential. Inclusive. Diverse. New men are always welcome in this circle - Bring Yourself - Be Yourself - Add yourself to the mix; see what happens. FMI and future events: andygrimm1@me.com





Seastar Success at the Earth & Ocean Arts Festival

WHILE MOTHER EARTH choreographed her own dramatic events the weekend of the 2nd Earth and Ocean Arts Festival in Cannon Beach this September, the diverse roster of live outdoor art persevered. Daniel Dancer with Art for the Sky, and his team directed 150 participants in the creation of the world's largest sea star chosen as a symbol of the fragility of our ecosystem, and its encouraging comeback since its depletion from a wasting syndrome that hit the west coast in 2013. The five arms of the sea star also represent the five environmental non-profit beneficiaries of the festival.

Boni and Dave Deal began firing raku on the beach 50 years ago and this was their final public demonstration of this exciting process. San Francisco theatre company We Players performed living interactive sculptures, + land art installations by the work of Shelby Silver and Emily Miller.

Thousands of dollars were raised through raffles by the galleries, featuring environmentally themed artist. Artist Greg Navratil donated his painting, "Onward," for a raffle drawing and raised more than \$6,300 for NCLC Rainforest Reserve campaign.

You can watch an artfully composed video featuring the seastar event, and features from the festival, entitled *Once Upon a Seastar* on this link. <https://vimeo.com/610802534>

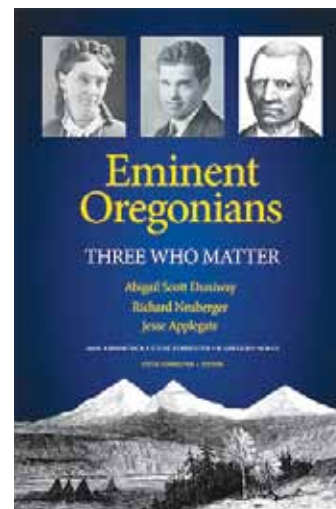
NCLC: Funghi Walk with Eric Owen Oct 29

JOIN LAND STEWARD ERIC OWEN from 2 to 4pm, Friday, Oct. 29, to explore the forests at Circle Creek Conservation Center, home of North Coast Land Conservancy in Seaside, and observe the wide variety of fungi found within them. Investigate the different roles mushrooms undertake in their respective environments.

ERIC OWEN completed his bachelor's degree at Oregon State University in 2014, having majored in environmental science with a minor in writing. In addition to his passion for conservation ecology, his interests include mycology and mushroom hunting, soccer, surfing, playing music, and brewing beer.

Outing info: This mycology-focused hike will follow one or more of the trails at Circle Creek with uneven terrain and easy to moderate difficulty. We will be meandering at a relatively slow pace, but rain boots or waterproof hiking boots are strongly recommended, as we may have to traverse through mud and/or up short inclines. No toilets on site. No dogs allowed on site.

FREE but you must register for this event and get more details on appropriate weather wear, COVID guidelines, etc: at the nclctrust.org site.



FORT GEORGE Eat.Meet.Drink.Listen

FORT GEORGE returns for speaker events for Thursday Night Talks, the first on this October 7, doors opening at 6pm. Speaker yet to be revealed.

However, On Wednesday, October 6th, from 6-8pm, join prominent Pacific Northwest Authors Jane Kirkpatrick, Steve Forrester, and R. Gregory Nokes for the release of their book, *Eminent Oregonians*. Together, they'll discuss the book and the inspiring stories of three people who helped shape modern Oregon. The event will be followed by a Q & A session with the authors. Food and Drink available via the Tap Room window until 7pm.

Watch Facebook and Instagram for weekly speakers and topics, and also go to the FG website events page.

MITA KUULUU?

What's up Finns and Finn friends. It's time once again for the very satisfying Finnish epicurean delight prepared and served up by The Finnish Brotherhood Auxilliary, Laksloda "to go!" Usually a festive afternoon meal at the Suomi Hall, since the pandemic, the brotherhood has been staging its favorite Finnish foody events via pick-up in the back parking lot. Look for Riisipuuro during midsummer fest, and the notorious Lutefisk in winter.

This harvest meal includes the traditional salmon/potato casserole (laksloda), beets, beans, fresh bread (rieska) and apple crisp. Cost for the meal is \$15 per person.

Preorder your "to go" meal(s) by calling 503-440-9002 before October 14th. Drive by pick up is behind Suomi Hall at 244 West Marine Drive on Saturday, October 16 between 11am and 2pm.



Finnish Astorian Dana Gunderson's Laksloda from the beloved Cannery Cafe, lost to the pier fire of 2010—a memory of delicious foods and gracious service not forgotten.

OSCC TALK: Our Changing Oceans 50 years of coastal conservation

IN CELEBRATING THE GROUP'S 50TH anniversary year, the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition has been hosting a series of talks by experts from around the country, addressing the challenges of the next 50 years of coastal conservation.

Next up is a talk on the future of "Our Changing Oceans," presented by marine ecologist Kristy Kroeker on Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 7pm. The online event is free and open to the public.

For registration link: go to oregonshores.org

Dr. Kroeker is an associate professor in the Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department in the Institute of Marine Science at the University of California at Santa Cruz. She specializes in such areas of research as community ecology,

species interactions, and global change biology. She and the other researchers in her lab focus on coastal sustainability, climate change, multiple stressors, social-ecological systems, and ocean policy and management.

She'll discuss the ways in which the marine environment is changing now and it likely to continue changing in the future, with a particular emphasis on ocean acidification and its effects, and will contemplate the effects of these changes on ocean organisms.

For more information, contact Phillip Johnson, Oregon Shores' executive director, at (503) 754-9303, phillip@oregon-shores.org.

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