

December 2023 • vol 24 • issue 280

HIPFISH MONTHLY

alternative press serving the lower columbia pacific region

U.S. SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY on Israel-Hamas War p4

Miniature Artist Mark Murphy on the telly p7

Mobile Canners - the nomads of craft brewing p8

I Sing the Salmon Home BOOK REVIEW p19

NC Chorale
sings Saint Saëns!

Lots o' Seasonal Fun
INSIDE!

CEASEFIRE CHRISTMAS

Celebrate the Season at The Liberty!

Portland Cello Project

7:30 pm, Thursday, December 14, 2023

The Portland Cello Project presents "Under the Mistletoe," featuring vocalist Saeeda Wright. Together they'll inspire you with unexpected jazzy takes on holiday classics such as "What Child Is This" and "Do You Hear What I Hear," as well as other holiday standards and Hanukkah medleys. Saeeda has performed with Prince and numerous gospel greats.



White Christmas Sing-Along

7:00 pm, Friday, December 22, 2023

Gather friends and family for this beloved 1954 film – with lyrics embedded on screen. Sing along with "The Best Things Happen When You're Dancing," "Snow,"



"Sisters," and of course, the iconic "White Christmas." The North Coast Chorale will welcome you with a lobby performance before the show, and will join you during the film to sing along!

North Coast Comedy Night

8:00 pm, Saturday, December 16, 2023

The biggest – and funniest! – comedy series on the North Coast continues. This time, host Drew Wilson-McGrath performs with special guest Cameron Peloso and headliner Simon Gibson. Doors open at 7:00 pm; concessions in the Lower Lobby. Still the best deal in town at only \$10!



Pictures with Santa

11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Saturday, December 2, 9 and 16, 2023

Photos, candy canes and secret conversations with Santa Claus.

Encore Dance Studio Holiday Spectacular

6:30 pm, Friday, December 8, 2023

A magical evening featuring Encore's skilled Tap and Jazz students, set to the backdrop of festive holiday music.

Columbia River Symphony Presents – "Holly Days"

7:00 pm, Saturday, December 9, 2023

Celebrate the holidays with traditional and contemporary symphonic music. And for the first time ever, students from Lewis & Clark Elementary will join the stage, with both groups performing separately and together.

Fallen Heroes: New Year's Eve Party

10:00 pm, Sunday, December 31, 2023 / In the upstairs McTavish Room

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North Coast Chorale Winter Concert

Oratorio de Noel
By Camille Saint-Saëns
String Quintet • Hand Bell Choir • Guest Soloists
Christmas Motets by Michael Praetorius
Dec 15 & 17, 2023

EVERY WINTER, the North Coast Chorale (NCC) performs a festive concert of classical choral music to celebrate the season with the community.

This year, they're pulling out all the stops - quite literally. NCC will present Camille Saint-Saëns' Christmas Oratorio, "Oratorio de Noel," with special guest soloists, Kari Burgess (Soprano), Bereniece Jones-Centeno (Mezzo Soprano), Alyse Jamieson (Alto), Scot Crandal (Tenor), and Deac Guidi (Bass) accompanied by a string quintet (Mattison Solgan, Violin I; Jude Matulich-Hall, Violin II; Aaron Schuman, Viola; Judy Woodward, Cello; and Len Bergman, String Bass) and featuring Paul Brady on the Larsen Center's beloved Estey pipe organ. This popular 19th century Oratorio, traditionally sung in Latin, will be presented in English by the chorale as a way to invite the audience to understand the text and follow the story of Christmas, which is musically illustrated through expressive passages of sweet melodies and harmonies textured with episodes of dramatic turbulence.

Preceding the Oratorio, NCC will perform a selection of Christmas Motets (short pieces of sacred music) by German composer, Michael Praetorius. Listen carefully to the familiar Renaissance tunes sung in the traditional German like 'Es ist ein Ros' Entsprungen' (Lo, How a Rose) and 'In Dulci Jubilo.' Praetorius is best known for stretching the boundaries of 16th century music by implementing cadences, moments of dissonance, and polyphony (overlapping and simultaneous melodies) in a horizontal contrapuntal style. Settle in and

enjoy the rich texture and brilliant harmonization of the composer's work, brought out through the soprano, alto, tenor, and bass sections and follow the voices, polished like bells, layer over one another and ring out.

North Coast Chorale enjoys bringing a variety of music styles to the community. This concert is a 'can't miss' for lovers of classical music who revel in baroque and romantic



Sop, Kari Burgess
(Portland)



Alto, Alyse Jamieson
(Eugene)



Tenor Scot Crandal
(Portland)

stylings. Those more familiar with modern and contemporary holiday tunes will be in for a treat with this delightful introduction to liturgical music in a welcoming and intimate setting. Director and conductor, Dr. Vincent Centeno will lead the chorus and instrumentalists.

The performance will be held at the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts (588 16th St., Astoria) on Friday, December 15th at 7 pm and Sunday, December 17th at 4 pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for those 18 and under accompanied by an adult. Buy your tickets now at Larsen-Center.org. The first twenty tickets for individuals aged 18 and under are free (paid for by Clatsop County Cultural Coalition).

By Jamie Lump



Mezzo Soprano
Bereniece Jones-
Centeno (Astoria)



Bass, Deac Guidi
(Astoria)

KALA presents The Oyster Crackers

THE OYSTER CRACKERS are a harmonious folk quartet based on Washington's Long Beach Peninsula and Astoria. Rita Smith, Christl Mack, Bette Lu Krause and Phyllis Taylor offer songs of hope and inspiration, an eclectic mix of Americana, Celtic and original music. They've released an original album "Home Grown Pearls."

Friday, January 12 at 7pm, Doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets \$20. Online at kalaastoria.com. KALA Performacne Space is an intimate concert venue with beverage bar, located at 1017 Marine Dr. in Astoria. 503.338.4878

Friday, Janaury 12, 7pm at KALA Performance Space
Ticket Link: kalaastoria.com



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UPCOMING WEBINAR



7 DEC. 2023 6:00PM

Herb Hammond

Forest Ecologist,
BSc Forest Science, MF Forest Ecology



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CEASEFIRE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Oregon's U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley released the following statement on November 20, 2023 regarding the Israel-Hamas war.

In his statement, the Senator calls for a ceasefire, to include the immediate cessation of hostilities by both sides. He also notes that a ceasefire will not endure unless the ceasefire and the negotiations that follow accomplish a number of objectives, including the release of all hostages and a massive influx of humanitarian aid.

Merkley joins Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), who became the first in the Senate to call for a cease-fire on Nov. 2, 2023.



ON MY FIRST TRIP TO ISRAEL in 1978, the energy for building a new nation was infectious and peace with Egypt was on the horizon. I was all in on America standing squarely with this new nation perched on a small sliver of land surrounded by hostile neighbors. I concluded that Israel would become a powerful and powerfully just nation.

Israel has succeeded in building that powerful nation I envisioned. Citizens planted forests, mastered maximum agricultural yields with minimum water, rebuilt their cities, and became the start-up nation full of entrepreneurs flexing their engineering and computer skills. At the same time, they established a military security system that has been the envy of the world.

Israel has faltered, however, in the just exercise of that power in the context of its occupation of the West Bank. Many in Israel's leadership, including champions like Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, pursued the vision of a future Palestinian state. But a different vision has been set through acts on the ground: One settlement followed another. Then another checkpoint, another outpost, another road for settlers, another house demolition, another olive orchard bulldozed. This was de facto annexation, year after year. And all substantially in violation of international law.

When I returned to Israel for the fifth time earlier this year, the pace of oppression had increased. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had formed a government with Bezalel Smotrich as Minister of Finance and Itamar Ben-Gvir as Minister of National Security. Smotrich has said that the Palestinian people do not exist and called for a Palestinian town to be erased. Ben-Gvir had kept a portrait in his living room of Baruch Goldstein, the Israeli-American terrorist who slaughtered 29 Palestinian Muslim worshipers and wounded 125 others in the 1994 Cave of the Patriarchs massacre. Israel's far-right extremists were now helping to drive Israeli government policy.

Under such a government, attacks by Israel's settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank have become more frequent and violent, often condoned by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority (PA), which had worked closely with the IDF to prevent violence by Palestinians, was losing its legitimacy. Without progress toward a plan for a future Palestinian state, the Palestinian people have increasingly seen the PA's security cooperation with Israel not as an essential element for a better future, but as collaboration with an oppressive occupier.

By the time of my visit, Netanyahu himself was singing a different tune. He no longer talked about a two-state solution as the only feasible future for Israel and the Palestinians. Instead, he talked about restricting Palestinians in the West Bank to enclaves amidst the expansion of settlements and the possibility of official annexation of the West Bank. And he was leading an aggressive effort to trim the powers of Israel's Supreme Court so it could not interfere with the plans of his

far-right coalition, an effort that was generating heated debate and massive opposition demonstrations.

Then came the horrific October 7th Hamas terrorist attack on Israeli communities with the slaughter of about 1,200 Israeli men, women, and children and the abduction of about 240 hostages, including Americans. The whole world was with Israel. President Biden flew to Israel and greeted Netanyahu with an emotional and heartfelt embrace. We remembered our own 9/11 and grieved with Israelis. I and others defended Israel's right to respond with a campaign targeted at destroying Hamas.

But the way that Israel has conducted that campaign matters and has been deeply disturbing for me and millions of others. Cindy McCain, the Director of the World Food Program, is warning that "civilians are facing the immediate possibility of starvation." Hospitals are left operating without basic medical supplies or even enough fuel to keep incubators and ventilators operating. The United Nations warns that the lack of clean water risks a devastating outbreak of disease. To help address all this, Israel could facilitate a massive influx of supplies through the Kerem Shalom gate, the main entry point for supplies before October 7th, but has refused to do so.

In addition, Israel has unleashed a bombing campaign on Gaza of phenomenal ferocity. Israel defends this campaign as necessary to strike Hamas wherever necessary. But the impres-

"After grimly witnessing accelerating body counts, many Americans, including thousands of Oregonians, have raised their voices to say more must be done to stop the carnage."

sion the world has been left with is one of indiscriminate bombing. Air strikes have leveled much of Gaza City and hit crowded refugee camps, schools, hospitals, and even shelters operated by the United Nations.

The result is mass carnage. Gaza's Ministry of Health, which has produced largely reliable casualty numbers in past conflicts that have been cited by the State Department, estimates that more than 12,000 Palestinians in Gaza have died. More than 4,000 children have been killed and thousands more are missing, many crushed in collapsing buildings. More than 28,000 Palestinians have been injured, and almost 1.6 million out of Gaza's 2.2 million people have been displaced.

When nations are attacked, their rage-fueled responses can include massive mistakes. That was certainly true for America after 9/11. Instead of going after terrorist training camps, we occupied Afghanistan and went to war in Iraq over non-existent "weapons of mass destruction." The cost in blood and treasure was huge, and we managed to magnify the power of both Iran and its proxies.

I believe that Israel, in its understandable rage, is also making a massive mistake. By waging a war that generates a shocking level of civilian carnage rather than a targeted campaign against Hamas, Israel is burning through its reserves of international support. Too many civilians and too many children have died, and we must value each and every child

equally whether they are Israeli or Palestinian. The war will damage Israel's economy with so many workers called to military duty. It also risks undoing the relationships with Arab neighbors won through the Abraham Accords, puts the negotiations for normalization with Saudi Arabia on ice, and could trigger a regional conflict with Hezbollah and other powers. When all is taken into account, this war may decrease rather than increase Israel's security.

The international community is asking critical questions: Will Israel allow Palestinians to return to their homes in Gaza after the war? Who will rebuild Gaza and who will manage it? And most importantly, how do we end the cycle of hate and violence and create a path to peace and prosperity?

I have called for humanitarian pauses to facilitate negotiations for the release of hostages, the movement of Palestinians in Gaza to identified safe zones, the departure of foreign citizens who wish to leave, and the massive distribution of food, water, medicine, and fuel by accredited international aid organizations for essential purposes like water desalination, ambulances, and hospitals. Israel has now acceded to a pause of four hours a day, but weeks—not hours—are needed to accomplish these objectives.

After grimly witnessing accelerating body counts, many Americans, including thousands of Oregonians, have raised their voices to say more must be done to stop the carnage.

I agree. So today I am calling for a ceasefire.

The ceasefire requires an immediate cessation of military hostilities by both sides. But the ceasefire and the negotiations that follow must accomplish a number of objectives or it will not endure. Hamas must release all the hostages without conditions and lay down their arms. And Hamas, which continues to defend the savage slaughter of Israeli citizens on October 7th and advocate for the obliteration of Israel, has to go. It can no longer have operational control of Gaza.

Israel must end its bombing and shelling and also address the immediate humanitarian challenge. Israel should open the Kerem Shalom gate and flood Gaza with humanitarian aid—so no more children die from a failed incubator, bad water, or hunger—and facilitate the passage of injured civilians in Gaza to hospitals in the West Bank.

And to start on the path to a more just future, Israel should declare the right of displaced Palestinians to return to their homes in Gaza, put an immediate end to new settlements in the West Bank, and end the settlers' violence against Palestinian villagers.

Most importantly, the Israeli people and the Palestinian people must find leaders determined to partner with each other and the world to replace the cycle of hate and violence with both a long-term vision for security, peace and prosperity featuring two states for two peoples, and immediate, concrete steps toward that goal.

By doing these things, Israel will move towards fulfilling the vision I had on my first visit in 1978, of becoming not only powerful, but powerfully just.

Senator Jeff Merkley represents Oregon in the United States Senate and serves as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



Inside the Month:

Murphy Miniatures . . . J Altruda p7

Canners . . . W. Dean p8

Concerts . . . p9

Theatre/Perf. . . p13

Holiday Shows . . . p14

Art Happens . . . p15-16

CALENDAR DAY BY DAY .. p12-13

COLUMNS

Word Wisdom . . . Nason p21

Pet o' the Month . . . Cooper p21

Flash Cuts Movie Haps . . Kanekuni p22

Free Will Astrology . . . Brezny p23

Desdemona Speaks . . . J. Altruda p19

(returns next month)

Whole Planet Health . . . Hammit p24

Chew On This . . . M. Meyers p25

Architect Hound . . .E. Wheeler p26
(returns next month)

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Forests for Water or Timber: A Clearcut Problem Herb Hammond Webinar

ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 6:00

PM, Herb Hammond, a forest ecologist and retired professional forester with over 45 years of experience in the fields of forest research, forest stewardship plans, consultation, and public education, will give a Zoom talk entitled "Forests for Water or Timber: A Clearcut Problem." Mr. Hammond and his spouse, Susan, co-founded the Silva Forest Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to research and guidance in ecosystem-based conservation planning. He has helped Indigenous and rural communities across several continents create over 25 ecosystem-based conservation plans. Mr. Hammond has been the recipient of Canada's Gold Award for Sustainable Living and has authored several award-winning books, including "Seeing the Forest Among the Trees: The Case for Wholistic Forest Use."

The presentation is being coordinated by the North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection, in collaboration with the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, the Lower Nehalem Community Trust, and the Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance (Peachland, BC). In his presentation, Mr. Hammond will address what comprises a healthy watershed, how watersheds provide high quality water in moderate flows, and how water may be degraded by inappropriate human activities. He will also discuss the current health of watersheds, both forested and clearcut, ranging from coastal Oregon to British Columbia. This will



provide insight into the direct interactions between deforestation, extreme weather events, and climate change. Mr. Hammond will address what needs to be done to restore and safeguard forested drinking water sources. He will include his personal insights based on his review of reports and images on the current condition of Jetty Creek Watershed, which is the primary source of drinking water for Rockaway Beach. Mr. Hammond's talk will conclude with a question-and-answer period. **Register at: www.healthywatershed.org**

This event is hosted by the North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection (formerly known as Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection), a 13-year-old grassroots organization located on the North Coast of Oregon. While NCCWP opposes logging and spraying in all drinking watersheds, it continues to focus on Jetty Creek in Rockaway Beach because it offers the best example of how logging activities were allowed to compromise, and possibly destroy, a town's drinking water. The NCCWP goal is to prevent logging and spraying in our drinking watersheds. Its mission – to raise awareness to accomplish this goal.

A Seventh Generation Approach to Restoring Climate Resiliency to Pacific Northwest Forests A Keynote Talk

JOIN THE SITKA CENTER for its 2023 Winter Keynote "A Seventh Generation Approach to Restoring Climate Resiliency to Pacific Northwest Forests" with **Dr. Cristina Eisenberg**. Climate change, land-use shifts related to Euro American settlement and the related elimination of Indigenous cultural stewardship practices are increasing the size and severity of wildfires throughout North America. During this keynote talk, Dr. Eisenberg will discuss how returning Indigenous stewardship to Pacific Northwest forests and employing traditional practices such as cultural fire can increase these forests' climate resiliency.

About the Speaker: Dr. Cristina Eisenberg is the Associate Dean for Inclusive Excellence and the Director of Tribal Initiatives at Oregon State University in the College of Forestry (CoF) and Professor of Practice. In the CoF, she directs

the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Lab and the Indigenous Natural Resource Office. As a Native American and Latinx ecologist, Eisenberg leads several long-term ecological restoration projects. These projects include the BLM /OSU/Fort Belknap Grassland Restoration Project in Montana and the Pacific Northwest Tribal Conservation Corps Pilot Project for Seeds of Success, which involves working with five of the nine Tribal Nations in Oregon.

This upcoming Winter Keynote Talk is a free, public event to be held via Zoom with Dr. Cristina Eisenberg on Tuesday December 12, 2023, at 4 PM PST. Register at www.sitkacenter.org/events



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www.thetenfifteentheater.com

North Coast INCO NEWS INDIVISIBLE

TAKE A HOLIDAY FROM THE HEADLINES

By Laurie Caplan

Tis the season for cranberries, Santa Claus, travel, and -- oh no! -- polls! Today's presidential polls cannot predict how millions of people will vote in November, 2024.

Even worse, polls distract us from the real work all lovers of democracy must do. As nationally known political analyst Robert Hubbell wrote in a recent Substack newsletter,

"... Let's start with a lesson that we must not forget: The old paradigm of "horse-race" polls no longer applies. Why? Because such polls assume that two legitimate candidates are competing for votes within the system. We have never had a candidate who seeks to overthrow the system. Or who attempted a coup. Or who plans to invoke the Insurrection Act on the first day of his next term. Or who called for the execution of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Or who will use the DOJ to persecute his perceived enemies. Or who was found liable for sexual assault. Or who will support a nationwide ban on reproductive liberty. Or who views Putin as a friend and NATO allies as adversaries and leeches."

Hubbell quotes Dan Pfeiffer, a Democratic political strategist in the Obama White House:

"Perhaps the simplest explanation of Biden's political challenges is that he has done a lot of good, popular things, and almost no one knows about them. Navigator tested a series of messages about Biden's various accomplishments, including allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower drug costs, the bipartisan law to rebuild roads and bridges, and efforts to create more manufacturing jobs in the U.S.

"Guess what? All of this stuff is super popular. Medicare negotiating drug prices is supported by 77% of Americans, including 64% of Republicans. The bipartisan infrastructure law has the support of 73% of Americans and a majority of Republicans. Every accomplishment tested in this poll had majority support. It's hard

*"The vision of the future should shape the agenda for the present."
– Shimon Peres, winner, Nobel Peace Prize*

to overstate how impressive that is in a deeply divided, highly polarized country at a time when the President's approval ratings are in the low 40s.

"That's the good news. Here's the bad news: according to the poll, a majority of Americans heard little or nothing about the accomplishments tested. There is a yawning knowledge gap.

"Now for more good news (think of this as a positive sandwich); the poll shows that when people are told about what Biden has done, his approval rating goes up."

Let's celebrate everything President Biden, Congressional Democrats, and many of Oregon's elected officials have done to improve the lives of ordinary people. We must share our belief that truth, decency, and accountability matter. Let's help others connect the dots: Oregon's very low unemployment rate is likely connected to this info, from The Hopium Chronicle newsletter: "Since 1989, when a new age of globalization began, 50 million jobs have been created in America. 48 million of those jobs, 96%, have been created under Democratic Presidents. Essentially all of them."

We have lots to celebrate this holiday season, including that millions of Americans are working to save our democracy. Our communities and country need you. Together, we might not make everything fine today, but we must start.

Our communities and country need us. Activate your inner activist. We might not make everything fine today, but we can start.

Indivisible North Coast Oregon (INCO) defends democracy by opposing authoritarianism, bigotry, and corruption. Sign up to get our weekly e-newsletter at www.incoregon.org, or contact incoregon@gmail.com. Indivisible North Coast Oregon is on Facebook.



NEW FORT CLATSOP VISITOR CENTER Entrance Unveiling Dec 2

OREGON – By Dec. 2, 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition was five days away from reaching what would be the site for Fort Clatsop. Fast forward 218 years, and we're celebrating a new entrance to the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. All are invited to join at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, for this free event. Park leaders will make brief comments and welcome visitors to explore the updated visitor center.

"We're happy to present the improvements to the public," says Visitor Services Program Manager Jill Harding. "By improving our accessibility and updating our energy efficiency we are being good stewards of public money and this place."

Much of the visitor center, including the restrooms and windows, was constructed in 1963, five years after the park was established. The facility tripled in size in 1991 — adding a theater and exhibit hall — through a public and private partnership with park supporters.

More than 30 years and another renovation later, the most visible change in the Visitor Center is the new entrance hall with its soaring beams and high windows. What you might not notice is that the smaller, single-pane office windows have been replaced with energy efficient models and an antiquated heating and cooling system has been updated building wide. In addition, spacious public restrooms replace cramped ones, and with an added family restroom. Starting late winter, and into spring, the project will continue with new seating and acoustic panels in the theater. Funding for the project has come from federal dollars and is designated as deferred maintenance.

On Dec. 2, park partner the Lewis & Clark National Park Association will provide cake and punch during Saturday's event, as well as have its bookstore open with educational and fun holiday and year-round goods.



A unit of the National Park Service, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Fort Clatsop is located southwest of Astoria, Oregon, three miles off U.S. Highway 101. The park serves more than 280,000 visitors a year and is open in winter 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. FMI: (503) 861-2471. Learn more at www.nps.gov/lewi, and on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Astoria Artist Mark Murphy's significant career in the miniature world

"At its simplest, the miniature shows us how to see, learn, and appreciate more with less."
-Simon Garfield, *In Miniature---How Small Things Illuminate the World.*

MARK MURPHY has been crafting miniature furniture professionally for nearly 40 years. His tiny creations are housed in national museums and private collections worldwide, but locally he's only shown his work once in the 20 years he's lived in Astoria. This month, we'll have a chance to see the work of our hometown artist on the **PBS series Craft in America**, which showcases contemporary American craft along with the "makers committed to its practice, and the contribution craft makes to our national cultural heritage."

Mark specializes in 18th and 19th century American, Arts and Crafts, and Japanese designs, built on a 1:12 scale (one-inch equals one-foot). He sometimes collaborates with other artisans, such as decorative painter Mary Grady O'Brien, or Anelle Ferguson, who creates needlework. He avidly collects other miniaturists' works: paintings, ceramics, dishes, tapestries, glassware, food, figures, toys, and more. In his home, display cases teem with tiny tableaus, beacons of history and imagination. Practically every piece was created by a "miniature person" as Mark terms it, meaning a friend or colleague. So, where did it all begin?

Prophetic Journey

Mark, born in 1955, grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, the second oldest of seven children. His father was an NBA referee and everyone in the family was athletic--except for Mark, who preferred "hanging out in the kitchen with the women." In the winter of 1969, when Mark was 14, he and his family visited California. "My dad had a

bunch of games on the west coast. We went to Disneyland and all that, but it didn't make the same impression on me as San Francisco ... We were just being tourists. We rode on cable cars, went to Chinatown--that was the first time I ever tried chopsticks. We went through Haight Ashbury. It was the height of the flower power era. For my parents that was a novelty--to drive through Haight Ashbury from Ohio. They wouldn't get out of the car--there was always fear about the unknown. But I'm thinking, how cool how cool how cool! I thought, someday I'm going to live here."

Art School Awakening

Mark went to Ohio State for two years and then enrolled in the Philadelphia College of Art (now the University of the Arts). "My father was a jock and he still sent me to art school. I have to be grateful that my family was pretty accepting of what I wanted to do. I remember my father

once said, "I don't really know what you're doing here [at art college] but you seem to be pretty successful at it."

"In my coming-out process, I was in this limbo-land. I got to Philadelphia in the summer of 1976--the Bicentennial. I lived right in the heart of the gay community but had no idea [at first]. People were beginning to come out of the closet--that was the mid-70s. Rocky Horror came out and The Boys in the Band...thinking back on it, I came out of the closet pretty darn early, with my friends, at least."

In 1979 Mark graduated from Philadelphia College of Art with a BFA in woodworking and furniture design. "Shaker is my biggest influence. And

Shaker design led me to all the other things. Now I'm doing more decorative things. Cause, you know, you have to expand."

Tales of the City

In 1980 Mark moved to the Bay Area. A year later, he moved to a studio apartment



Chipendale settee by Mark Murphy, needlepoint by Anelle Ferguson



Pastel by Lloyd Cook, Deadmans Cove 2010



Mark Murphy's miniature creations and collected artisans work, from toys to food, ceramics, paintings and more.

in the Tenderloin near Union Square. "It was 1981. There was Incredible freedom. Especially the Gay scene. And it was affordable. Rent was around \$300 a month."

He worked at an architectural display shop, making miniature cars, trees, and people. "I was doing my models on the side. And that's when I met (the late) Pam Throop." Throop, who bought supplies there, is considered to be one of the finest architects of miniature East Coast style doll houses. "She became my mentor, taking me to shows and letting me display my work." He met Astorians Noel and Pat Thomas at this time, legendary makers of West Coast style miniature houses. Like Throop, the Thomas's houses are in museum collections; Mark's furniture is included in their décors.

Astoria

About twenty years ago, Mark moved to Astoria from Portland. Soon after, his partner Lloyd Cook joined him. Included in Mark's collection are miniature pastels made by Lloyd, including scenes from Cape Disappointment State Park. "Deadman's Cove was a place that we both loved. We used to go there quite often." He pointed out one drawn in 2010, a year before his partner died. "When Lloyd drew this there were two trees on the rock and now it's down to one."

Last spring, the Craft in America crew came to Astoria and spent two days filming in Mark's studio and then followed him to a miniature show in Chicago. Being asked to be a featured artist came as a surprise. (He was nominated by a peer for the honor.)

"Out of the blue the show producer called me up. I was like wow. Ok. I guess I have to do this. It was just wonderful, the whole thing."



Mark in SF 1969 on left in striped bellbottoms

CRAFT IN AMERICA featuring Mark Murphy will begin streaming December 1 on the PBS app or at www.pbs.org/craftinamerica

Televised segment airs December 29th.

To see more of Mark's miniatures visit www.markmurphyminiatures.com

PHOTOS: Judith Altruda



THE BEER ZONE

By William Dean

DURING the darkest days of the pandemic, North Coast craft breweries had to close their taprooms and brewpubs.

It was a huge economic blow, but the businesses survived in part by pivoting almost entirely from draft to canned beer either sold “to go” or through distributors.

There was a problem, however. Most smaller breweries lacked canning lines.

More than ever, they needed the services of the nomads of the industry: mobile canners.

Because in-house canning lines are costly, take up valuable space and require staffing and maintenance, many microbreweries today contract with mobile canning companies.

The operators roam like hired guns from brewery to brewery in their rigs, often across a vast territory. They became a key part of production as the number of breweries exploded nationwide – from a couple hundred in the early 1980s to more than 9,500 today.

For Ryan McReynolds, 35, of Hood River-based Crossroads Mobile Canning, the job entails rumbling down highways in his truck with a canning machine tucked inside the 18-foot trailer he’s towing.

At a stop before dawn at Public Coast Brewing Co. in Cannon Beach, he rolls out his \$100,000 Microcanner in several pieces and hooks it up in a narrow space between the brewhouse and the pub.

It takes a couple of hours to get things set, including connecting to a tank filled with fresh beer, testing the batch’s temperature, dissolved oxygen and carbonation, and calibrating his equipment.

“There’s a lot to it,” he says.

Once ready, cans begin moving down the line, gradually reaching a speed of about 30 per minute.

They’re fed into the “flip rinse” – a machine that turns them upside down so they can be cleansed with water. Flipped upright again, they’re sent down a conveyor belt to the “filler.”

Cans are blasted with CO2 to clear them of oxygen, then filled four at a time. While McReynolds checks the fill levels, tops dispensed from a long vertical tube are placed onto each foaming can. At the next station, a “seamer” folds the top under the lip of the can, sealing it.

Another rinse, then it’s on to the labeler. McReynolds patiently works the controls and keeps the empty cans coming as Public Coast brewers assist on the “back end.”

After more than four hours of noisy canning, the quota of cases is satisfied. McReynolds takes his machine apart and returns it to the trailer. But there’s no time to rest. He’s got to get back to Hood River and prepare for the next day’s job.

“Work, work, work, man,” he says with a smile.

It’s a rite of passage for breweries to grow to the point of investing in high-speed canning lines of their own.

North Coast regional powerhouses Fort George Brewery, Buoy Beer Co. and Pelican Brewing Co. now use high-tech canning machines and related equipment that can cost up to several million dollars and require five employees to operate.

Some smaller breweries do their own canning with compact, no-frills machines, figuring it’s more economical than contracting out the work.

That was the case from the start for Reach Break Brewing, which opened in downtown Astoria in 2017. Head brewer and founder Josh Allison got a used machine from a cold brew coffee business and later upgraded.

While he appreciates the role mobile canners play, Allison likes having maximum control over his beer. “At the end of the day, you’re completely beholden to somebody else’s equipment and schedule,” he says.

Founded 10 years ago, Buoy thought its mobile canning days were long over when pilings at its waterfront facility suddenly failed in June 2022, causing a partial collapse.

The damaged building held the canning line and the brewery wasn’t allowed

access due to safety concerns. (While it would turn out that the machine was intact, Buoy officials had no way of knowing that at the time).

Suddenly unable to package its own beer, the brewery reached out to mobile canning companies. Two based in Portland – Craft Canning and Cascadia Canning – were able to respond on an emergency basis, setting up their machines inside the unscathed main brewhouse on the south side of the Riverwalk.

Buoy’s makeshift arrangement lasted nine months, but it allowed beer to clear the tanks and get to distributors during a major crisis, according to Jonathan Gostnell, the brewery’s operations manager.

“Mobile canning was integral post-collapse,” he says.

Being a mobile canning operator is a grueling job, with days that start before sunrise, intense pressure and lonely treks to far-flung breweries.

“It’s a long day – 15 hours,” says Gostnell, who worked several years as an operator before going into management. “And then say, due to the scheduling, that machine needs to get to Seattle from Bend the next day. ... It’s the single-hardest job I’ve ever had.”

McReynolds calls Gostnell’s assessment “spot on.”

After buying Crossroads three years ago from his retiring parents, he’s been a sole operator. When he talks, there’s a weariness in his voice.

He’s got about 30 clients, most of them breweries, scattered throughout Washington and Oregon, which is why he’s put some 100,000 miles on his two rigs. As owner-operator, McReynolds has to be a scheduler, long-haul trucker, beer expert



The packaging end of the Fort George line.



Mobile Canner Ryan McReynolds

and mechanic – the latter just to keep the lines running.

“It’s a huge, huge part of being able to do what I do,” he says of making repairs in the field. “You have to be mechanically inclined. That’s the only way you would ever be able to be successful in this line of work.”

Because craft brewing switched from bottles to cans slowly, mobile canning is relatively new. Most companies, like Crossroads, Craft and Cascadia, are only 10 to 15 years old.

They lose customers when breweries get big or close their doors, but for now start-ups are plentiful.

While he enjoys the friendships he’s forged with brewers, McReynolds says he’s stopped taking new customers because his schedule is so packed.

“There’s no shortage of business out there,” he says. “There’s always going to be breweries popping up.”

William Dean is an author with a passion for craft beer. His blog, Astoria Beer Zone (astoriabeerzone.com), covers the North Coast. His latest suspense novel, Militia Men, is available in bookstores and online.



Craft root beer coming off the line at Public Coast Brewing.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Skamakowa Swamp Opera at Suomi Hall

SUOMI HALL and The Finnish Brotherhood present the fabulous Skamakowa Swamp Opera, the eclectic folk band made up of Wahkiakum County musicians!

The band now features founding member Andrew Emlen on cello, guitar, mandocello, banjo, and vocals; Kyleen Austin on guitar and vocals; Erik Friend on percussion, mandolin, and vocals; and Wren Hendricks on guitar and vocals. This band is known for their vocal harmonies and unique arrangements for guitar, cello, banjo, mandolin, percussion and voice. SSO currently features songs by and about the people of the lower Columbia River region— original tunes, sure to include the infamous “Wahkiakum County Sheriff’s Report,” and other songs off their celebrated last CD, Foxglove Streets, and rumor has it, they’re preparing some Finnish tunes for this Suomi Hall gig!

Sunday, Dec 10 at 2pm. Wine will be available to purchase by the glass. Tickets at the door. \$15. 244 W. Marine Dr. in Uniontown Astoria.



Deb Montgomery

Kind-of-sort-of Advent Concert

Singer Songwriter Deb Montgomery brings a quiet early evening of music and candles for a kind-of-sort-of-Advent Concert. It’s a sweet warm church off of Hwy 101 between Manzanita and Nahalem. Think house concert in a church. St Catherines is open, inclusive and welcoming.

Deb has performed for many years at music venues with and without a band in Seattle, Toronto, Chicago and New York City. She recently relocated to Manzanita. You can find her music and albums on Apple Tunes, and Spotify.

Sunday, Dec 16 at 4pm. \$20 Suggestion Donation / Pay what you can Proceeds benefit The Tillamook Food Bank. St. Catherines Episcopal Church 36335 N. Hwy 101, Nahalem, OR 97131



Ora Cogen

Gothic Country

CANADIAN singer-songwriter Ora Cogen is hitting the road this fall with her new release, **Formless**. She’ll be doing a show at ANITA, known for curating edgy acts of genre bending and blending. Machine opens the eve.

Formless, finds beauty, absurdity, humor, and unlikely joy in the bleakest of times. Cogan’s smoky, psychedelic approach to gothic country and hazy folk merges with post-punk, groove, psych rock, and traditional balladry. The album includes single, “Katie Cruel,” which Jon Pareles featured in *The Playlist in The New York Times*, and *Paste* named the track one of that week’s ‘Best New Songs’, calling it, “Powerful... a psych-folk droplet of blood blooming in a pool of water”. Raised by a photographer and a singer-songwriter on the islands of Canada’s Pacific coast, where she once again resides, Cogan shaped her approach to music far from big-city scenes. Her childhood home played host to a constant stream of artists as it served as a professional recording studio. Cogan absorbed a myriad of influences from Édith Piaf, Ladino and Rumbetico to Karen Dalton, and American country blues, all feeding into her glacial and cinematic yet tinglingly intimate sound.

Saturday, December 16. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets available at the door. ANITA, 1312 Commercial in Astoria.



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WORD

Cascadian Zen to be featured at Winekraft and Time Enough Books

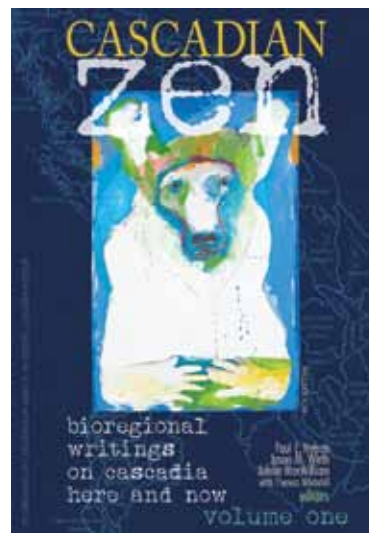
TO CELEBRATE the release of their omnibus anthology *Cascadian Zen: Writings from Cascadia in the Here and Now*, Vol. I, Watershed Press, the Seattle-based nonprofit Cascadia Poetics Lab is holding two waterfront readings on the Lower Columbia: at Winekraft in Astoria at 7 p.m., Friday, December 8, and at Time Enough Books in Ilwaco at 3 p.m., Saturday, December 9.

Both events are free and everyone is welcome.

Cascadian Zen is an omnibus anthology featuring poetry and prose from distinguished writers throughout the bioregion, from Gary Snyder to Jane Hirschfield, Tess Gallagher to Tim McNulty, and many others. Not all of the contributors are followers of Zen or Buddhism, but all are close observers and interpreters of our home land, Cascadia, in the here and now.

Presenting at each reading will be three of the book's editors, Paul Nelson, Adelia MacWilliam, and Jason Wirth, with noted local contributors Cate Gable and Robert Michael Pyle. They will be joined at the WineKraft reading by Astoria poets Florence Sage and Jim Dott, and John Ciminello of Naselle. Books will be available for sale and signing at both venues.

Paul Nelson is a widely published poet and interviewer, and the founder of Cascadia Poetics Lab. Adelia MacWilliam earned her MFA at the University of Victoria and is a Founding Editor of Watershed Press. Jason Wirth is a philosophy professor at Seattle



University, a well-regarded author, and a Founding Editor of Watershed Press.

Cascadia Poetics Lab aims to empower people to practice poetry and deepen connections to their place and the present moment.

The organization maintains that self-knowledge, bioregionalism, and expansive creativity converge through poetry, and they follow this mission by hosting workshops and poetry festivals to expose participants to community, education and transformation through poetry. The work in the anthology connects the mission of Cascadia Poetics Lab by exploring the nature of the Cascadia bioregion, Zen practice and the many questions that follow these topics.

Cascadia Poetics Lab, a Seattle-based nonprofit, was founded in Auburn, Washington, on December 14, 1993.

Tea and English CCC Launches English Club with event

CLATSOP COMMUNITY COLLEGE announces the establishment of its English Club and invites community members, including teachers, college and high school students, writers, and book enthusiasts, to join the celebration at the inaugural English Tea with Faculty event.

Hosted by Dr. Julie Brown and Kama O'Connor, the English Tea with Faculty will take place on December 6 at 3:30 p.m. in Towler Hall's 305 suite. This event presents a unique opportunity for attendees to talk about their passion for writing and literature, look into English classes offered by the college, transfer options for English degrees, and engage with the newly formed English Club.

At the event, participants will have the chance to share their thoughts on English-related activities, propose ideas for field trips, and immerse themselves in the world of literature and language.

Tea, coffee, and cookies will be served, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for lively discussions. The English Tea with Faculty event promises to be an engaging experience, fostering a sense of community among students, faculty, and literature enthusiasts alike.

Bring a friend and your enthusiasm for English, writing, and reading, and let this event mark the beginning of a fantastic new year filled with literary exploration and academic growth.

Wednesday Dec. 6, 3:30pm to 5pm, Towler Hall Rm. 305. (Top Floor). Clatsop Community College 1651 Lexington Ave, Astoria, OR.

6th Annual Writers Read Celebration Call for Submissions



ATTENTION WRITERS of all ages - this year's Writers Read theme, presented by the Cannon Beach Library is, "Beach Noir." Writers chosen to read at the Celebration can read in-person or on Zoom. You don't have to live locally to participate.

Noir detective fiction often takes place in a dark or foreboding setting, though the tone and descriptions can be unconventional or playful. Other elements may include flashes of humor, flawed underdog characters, or a crime scene.

RULES: All written formats will be accepted (essay, story, poetry, haiku, etc.). Writers may submit up to three entries, 600-word maximum per entry. A group of volunteer judges will select 10 to 12 works to be read by their authors during the Writers Read Celebration March 22, 2024. Submissions will be accepted by email (pre-

ferred) or mail. Submissions should be in Word format. Include a separate cover letter with your name, email and phone number - please no contact information on the entry document. **The deadline for submissions is February 2, 2024.**

SEND TO: Cannon Beach Library/ Attn: Writers Read Submission/ info@cannon-beachlibrary.org/ PO Box 486 Cannon Beach, OR 97110

The NW Authors Series Committee sponsors monthly author presentations and other events at the Cannon Beach Library. This is the sixth year of the Writers Read Celebration. Previous themes were: "Life on the North Coast," "The View from the North Coast," "Pandemic" and "Recovery?" and "What Would Hemingway Say?" Writers Read Celebrations on Zoom from past years were recorded and are available for viewing.

Rain Magazine Submissions

RAIN MAGAZINE, Clatsop Community College's long-running literary arts publication, welcomes art, photography, poetry, nonfiction, and fiction submissions **now through Monday, January 15th, 2024 for the 2024 edition.**

Rain welcomes submissions from the public as well as all Clatsop Community College and high school students. This year's theme section will simmer on the idea of "Food". This could include relationships with food, meals with loved ones, gathering over food, post-pandemic reconnection, cooking, dining out, cultivating and growing food, cultural identities, memories, travel—however the writer or artist interprets the concept.

All general submissions of art, fiction, poetry, and nonfiction not adhering to the theme will also be considered.

THE FAMOUS RIC'S POETRY MIC held the first Tuesday of each month will close out the year on Dec. 5 at the new Winekraft location. A toast to departed founder Ric Vrana plus holiday fun will ensue. No longer ye shall meet at the west end of Pier 11, but at the east end, 77 11th St. in Astoria.

All are welcome. Readers sign up beginning at 6:30, for a 5 minute presentation. Please practice to stay within the time limit. The Open Mic begins at 7pm to 8:30pm.

Ric's is hosted by Florence Sage and Jim Dott, event liaison Jennifer Nightingale, and Winekraft proprietor Rebecca Kraft.



THEATRE

Riverbend Players A CHRISTMAS STORY at the NCRD Performing Arts Center

A CHRISTMAS STORY is humorist Jean Shepherd's memoir of growing up in the Midwest in the late 1930s. The play, a theatrical holiday treat, follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. A determined Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher, and even Santa Claus himself at Higbee's Department Store.

The constant response: "You'll shoot your eye out!"

All the elements from the beloved motion picture – which this year celebrates its 40th anniversary – are here, including the family's temperamental exploding furnace; Scut Farkas, the school bully; the boys' experiment with a wet tongue on a cold lamppost; the Little Orphan Annie decoder pin; Ralphie's father winning a lamp shaped like a woman's leg in a net stocking; Ralphie's fantasy scenarios, and more.

"A CHRISTMAS STORY is a story about hope, family, and the magic of the holiday season," reflected Director Frank Squillo.

Squillo, who still finds time to fulfill his passion for directing, in spite of the many hours he puts in as owner of Wanda's Cafe + Bakery, has, as usual, assembled a talented cast and crew to bring this poignant story to life. Ralphie will be played by Oliver Arnold, with Bryonie Arnold (Oliver's real-life mom) as his mother, and actor Dawson Carter as his father.

The cast in this holiday classic includes seven children: four from



(L to R) AnaBelle Davis, Bentley Davis, Julien Ancil, Oliver

Nehalem Elementary School, one from Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School, and two who are home-schooled.

"I'm so proud of the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication," said Squillo. "They've brought this story to life in a funny and heartwarming way. It's story that will stay with you long after you leave the theater."

Performances: Fri/Sat at 7pm and a 2pm matinee on Sunday.

December 1 - 17. Tickets are on sale now, \$25, \$20 and \$10 (12 and under) for nine shows only and can be purchased at RiverbendPlayers.org. NCRD Performing Arts Center at 6155 9th Street in Nehalem.

Ten Fifteen to close out 2023 with beloved Cariani Classic Almost Maine

ALMOST, MAINE, an ensemble piece about life and love in a small town, will finish out the 2023 season at The Ten Fifteen Theater. Three local directors lead a total of eight actors through the nine scenes that all take place on the same, cold, midwinter's night.

About the Show: Welcome to Almost, Maine, a place that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States. It's almost in Canada. And it's not quite a town, because its residents never got around to getting orga-

nized. So it almost doesn't exist. One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, the residents of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

Directed by Karen Bain, Susi Brown, and William Ham. Cast: Dylan Disch. Dorothy Frace, Natan Hamilton, Cherry Kocemba, Marcus Liotta, Jolene Magee, Kendall Padgett-McEwen, Connor Swan

Performances: December 8th, 9th, 14th, 15th, & 16th at 7:30pm December 10th at 3:30pm. Tickets are \$20, and are currently available online at www.thetenfifteenththeater.com.



Dylan Disch and Dorothy Frace



Connor Swan and Kendall Padgett-McEwen



Emily Dante, Chelsea Munguia Oros and Mick Taylor

Miracle on 34th St. A Classic at the Coaster

A holiday classic from the writer of the musical theatre classic, *The Music Man!*, and based on the movie of the same name, *Miracle on 34th Street* features a book and score by none other than Meredith Willson. Single mother, Doris Walker, doesn't want her six-year-old Susan's head filled with romantic notions. Their neighbor, Fred Gailey, tries to woo Doris by charming Susan and taking her to see Santa Claus at Macy's, where Doris works. Doris is not impressed, but when it turns out that Macy's Santa may, in fact, be the real Kris Kringle, a wave of love spreads across New York City that melts even the most cynical hearts.

PERFORMANCES: November 24 - December 21. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Sunday shows start at 3pm. TICKETS: \$30 and \$25. Tickets available online, at the theatre box office or by calling 503-436-1242.



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DEC 2023



Singing together in the dark White Christmas Sing-a-long

IT WAS SHOT in VistaVision folks – the new wider screen, high resolution process developed by Paramount Studios and introduced with the film White Christmas.

All the great tunes were written by Irving Berlin. If you've never heard "Sisters!" or "Snow!" you're in for a treat, and the classic song Blue Skies was introduced in the 1954 movie.

The lyrics are embedded in the screen, so you can sing along with Der Bingle, Cloony, Danny Kaye and Vera Lynn (whose voice was actually dubbed). Whether you sing-a-long or not, it's a great film to see on the big screen. The North Coast Chorale will do some early caroling in the lobby – enjoy drinks and snacks from concessions, and then the chorale will help to get the old proverbial bouncing ball rolling.

Friday, December 22. Doors open at 6pm, Movie at 7pm. \$10 admission and \$5 for 12 and under. Liberty Theatre in Astoria.

Dead Musicians Society Christmas Extravaganza

Soak in the holiday grooves when Local favorite musicians from your favorite bands team up to present a festive evening of their favorite Christmassy songs and sounds. Whether you're naughty or nice, sentimental or grinchy, wear your favorite bad Christmas sweater or other holiday attire.

Friday, Dec 22. \$12 at the door. 7:30pm. Ye Old Labor Temple in Astoria

Saturday 2

MUSIC

Seamoss, Library Studies, Tony Horses, Samuss Samuss. \$10 cover, 8pm at the Labor Temple in Astoria.

Rene Muzquiz. No cover, 3 – 5pm at Shelburne Hotel in Seaview.

Tispur. 7pm at the Sou'wester Lodge in Seaview.

Bruce Thomas Smith. CD Release Party. 7 – 10pm at the Times Theater in Seaside.

ART

First Saturday Art Walk. 5 - 7pm in downtown Seaside.

LECTURE & LITERARY

Local Author Fair. 10am – 2pm at the Ilwaco Library.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

The Nutcracker. With the little Ballet Theater and orchestra. 2pm & 7:30pm at the Astoria High School Auditorium.

Miracle on 34th St. A Holiday classic. \$25 - \$30, 7:30pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

A Christmas Story. \$20, 7 – 9pm at the NCRD Performing Arts Center in Nehalem. Get tickets at riverbendplayers.org

HAPPENING

Astoria Holiday Market. 10am – 3pm at the Astoria Armory.

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 – 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Pictures with Santa. Free, 11am – 2pm in the Liberty Theater Lobby, Astoria.

Holiday Movie Screening. With costume contest. \$5, 6pm at the ASOC Playhouse in Astoria.

Fort Clatsop Visitor Center Entrance Unveiling. 2pm at the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center, near Astoria.

Lamp Lighting Ceremony. 4pm at Sandpiper Square in Cannon Beach.

Christmas Bazaar. 9am – 2pm at the Naselle Community Center.

Pacific Grange Arts & Crafts Fair. 9am – noon at Pacific Grange in Warrenton.

Festival of Trees. View the Winter Wonderland at a Community Open House from 9am – 1pm. Gala Dinner & Auction at 5pm at the Seaside Convention Center. Call 971-369-0961 for tickets.

Seaside Kiwanis Annual Christmas Tree Sale. 10am – 5pm at the Seaside Outlet Mall.

HAPPENNINGS in the Lower Columbia Pacific Region

Holiday Tea. Enjoy tea & treats. Free, 1 – 4pm at the Cannon Beach Library.

Christmas Bazaar. 9am – 3pm at Tillamook United Methodist Church.

Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar. 9am – 3pm at St Joseph Catholic Church in Cloverdale.

Sunday 3

MUSIC

Live Music. No cover, 6pm in the Lovell Building at Fort George in Astoria.

JT Trawick. Bluegrass/Folk. 7pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

Water Music Society Christmas Concert. \$15, 2 – 5pm at the Historic Chinook School Event Center.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

The Nutcracker. With the little Ballet Theater and orchestra. \$, 2pm at the Astoria High School Auditorium.

Miracle on 34th St. A Holiday classic. \$25 - \$30, 3pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

A Christmas Story. \$20, 2 – 4pm at the NCRD Performing Arts Center in Nehalem. Get tickets at riverbendplayers.org

Tillamook School of Dance Merry Christmas Spectacular. Admission: one new, unwrapped toy per family, or \$5 per person. 2 – 4pm at Tillamook High School.

HAPPENING

Astoria Holiday Market. 10am – 3pm at the Astoria Armory.

Holiday Movie Screening. The Muppets Christmas Carol. \$5, 3pm at the ASOC Playhouse in Astoria.

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 – 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Holiday Wreath and Swag Making Party. 1 – 4pm at the Netel Grange near Astoria.

Pacific Grange Arts & Crafts Fair. 9am – noon at Pacific Grange in Warrenton.

Monday 4

MUSIC

JT Trawick. Bluegrass/Folk. 7pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

Tuesday 5

MUSIC

Barney Perrine. Blues/Classic Rock. 7pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

The Gothard Sisters. Celtic. \$35, 7pm at the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

LECTURE & LITERARY

Ric's Poetry Open Mic. 7 – 8:30pm at WineKraft in Astoria.

HAPPENING

Pacific City Nestucca Valley Chamber Holiday Banquet. Guest speaker: Betsy Johnson. \$60, 6pm at Kiawanda Community Center in Pacific City. Email SSW@Nestuccaridge.com for tickets.

Wednesday 6

MUSIC

Barney Perrine. Blues/Classic Rock. 7pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

HAPPENING

English Tea with Faculty. Celebrating the launch of CCC's English Club. 3:30 – 5pm in Towler Hall's 305 Suite at CCC in Astoria.

Thursday 7

MUSIC

The Horsenecks. Bluegrass/Old Time/Appalachian. 7pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

LECTURE & LITERARY

An Afternoon with David Campiche. Free, 2pm in the Community Room at the Seaside Library.

Manzanita Writer's Series. Logging Oregon's Coastal Forests. With Mark Beach and Carl Vandervoort. \$20, 4pm at the Hoffman Center in Manzanita. Pre-registration recommended, go to hoffmanarts.org

Forests for Water or Timber: A Clearcut Problem. With Herb Hammond. An online Zoom Talk at 6pm. Register at healthywatersheds.org

HAPPENING

First Night of Hanukkah Gathering. Join the Cultural Center for readings, blessings, and glazed donuts, as they light the first candle of the Cultural Center menorah. 4:30pm at the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

Friday 8

MUSIC

Fern Spores, Pale Violet. \$10 cover, 8pm at the Labor Temple in Astoria.

Gabe Hess. 6 – 8pm at Shelburne Pub in Seaview.

Artist/Music Showcase. 7 – 9pm at Fairview Grange in Tillamook.

LECTURE & LITERARY

Book Reading. Cascadian Zen: Writings from Cascadia in the Here and Now, Volume 1! is an anthology featuring poetry and prose from distinguished writers throughout the bioregion. 7pm at WineKraft in Astoria.

A Passion for the Weave: An Artist's Journey with the Method of Traditional Tapestry. With Pam Patrie. 4:30 – 6:30pm at the Hoffman Center in Manzanita.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

Encore Dance Studio Presents The Holiday Spectacular. Suggested donation of \$15. 6:30pm at the Liberty Theater in Astoria.

Almost Maine. Drama. \$20, 7:30pm at the Ten Fifteen Theater in Astoria.

Miracle on 34th St. A Holiday classic. \$25 - \$30, 7:30pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

Christmas Story. \$20, 7 – 9pm at the NCRD Performing Arts Center in Nehalem. Get tickets at riverbendplayers.org

It's a Wonderful Life – Live Radio Play. Christmas theme. \$16, 7pm at the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

HAPPENING

Festival of Trees Gala and Silent Auction. Drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and general merriment surrounded by beautifully decorated trees. \$40, 5:30 – 8:30pm at the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum in Tillamook.

Saturday 9

MUSIC

Holly Days. Presented by the Columbia River Symphony. Free, 7pm at the Liberty Theater in Astoria.

Know Your Rights. Clash Tribute. \$10 cover, 8pm at the Labor Temple in Astoria. Gabe Hess. 3 – 5pm at Shelburne Pub in Seaview.

J Graves. 7pm at the Sou'wester Lodge in Seaview.

ART

Second Saturday Art Walk. 5 – 8pm in downtown Astoria.

LECTURE & LITERARY

Book Reading. "Cascadian Zen: Writings from Cascadia in the Here and Now," 3pm at Time Enough Books in Ilwaco.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

Almost Maine. Drama. \$20, 7:30pm at the Ten Fifteen Theater in Astoria.

Miracle on 34th St. A Holiday classic. \$25 - \$30, 7:30pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

A Christmas Story. \$20, 7 – 9pm at the NCRD Performing Arts Center in Nehalem. Get tickets at riverbendplayers.org

It's a Wonderful Life – Live Radio Play. Christmas theme. \$16, 2 & 7pm at the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

HAPPENING

Clatsop Animal Assistance Holiday Party & Fundraiser. Pictures with Santa, raffles, a silent auction, and our always popular bake sale. 10am – 3pm at the Fort George Lovell Showroom in Astoria.

Pictures with Santa. Free, 11am – 2pm in the Liberty Theater Lobby, Astoria.

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 – 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Jingle Bell Jog 5K. The course starts and ends at the Lincoln City Community Center on the Head to Bay trail. \$30, 10am. FMI, visit LincolnCity.org

Giving Fair. Bring your donations of new, unwrapped toys and nonperishable food, or shop the nonprofit booths selling candies, wreaths, and more. 1-5pm and 6 – 7pm at the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

Sunday 10

MUSIC

Skamokawa Swamp Opera. \$15, 2pm at Suomi Hall in Astoria.

Live Music. No cover, 6pm in the Lovell Building at Fort George in Astoria.

Electric Vice. \$10 cover, 8pm at the Labor Temple in Astoria.

Raeann Phillips. Country. 7 – 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

Northwest Piano Trio. Holiday Concert, 3pm at Cannon Beach Community Church. By donation.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

Almost Maine. Drama. \$20, 3pm at the Ten Fifteen Theater in Astoria.

Miracle on 34th St. A Holiday classic. \$25 - \$30, 7:30pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

A Christmas Story. \$20, 2 – 4pm at the NCRD Performing Arts Center in Nehalem. Get tickets at riverbendplayers.org

HAPPENING

Astoria Holiday Market. 10am – 3pm at the Astoria Armory.

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 – 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Holiday Tea. \$55, 1 – 4pm at the Rosebriar Mansion in Astoria.

Holiday Movie Screening. White Christmas. \$5, 3pm at the ASOC Playhouse in Astoria.

Carols, Cookies & Cocoa. 3-5pm at the Fort Columbia Theater near Chinook.

Seaside Kiwanis Annual Christmas Tree Sale. 10am – 5pm at the Seaside Outlet Mall.

Monday 11

MUSIC

Raeann Phillips. Country. 7 – 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

Tuesday 12

MUSIC

Bees in a Bottle. Indie/Rock. 7 – 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

Wednesday 13

MUSIC

Amanda Richards and the Good Long Whiles. \$20, 4pm at the Peninsula Arts Center in Long Beach.

Bees in a Bottle. Indie/Rock. 7 – 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

Thursday 14

MUSIC

The Portland Cello Project. Under the Mistletoe with Saeeda Wright. \$35, 7:30pm at the Liberty Theater in Astoria.

Brocco. Celtic R&B/Folk/Jazz. 7 – 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

Almost Maine. Drama. \$20, 7:30pm at the Ten Fifteen Theater in Astoria.

Friday 15

MUSIC

North Coast Chorale. Saint Saen Christmas Oratorio, with soloists and chamber orchestra. 7pm. \$20. Larsen Center PAC.

Brocco. Celtic R&B/Folk/Jazz. 6 – 8pm at Shelburne Pub in Seaview.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

Almost Maine. Drama. \$20, 7:30pm at the Ten Fifteen Theater in Astoria.

Miracle on 34th St. A Holiday classic. \$25 - \$30, 7:30pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

HAPPENING

Light in the Darkness. An event to remember those who have passed but are still in our memories at Christmas time. Ceremony at 6pm. In case of severe weather, the event will be moved to December 20. 5 - 8pm at the Astoria Nordic Heritage Park.

Poets Read. Logan Garner, Elisa Carlsen, and Cliff Taylor. 5pm at Salty Siren Bookstore in Astoria.

Ecstatic Dance with Amanda. \$10 suggested donation, 6 - 7:15pm at the AAMC in Astoria.

Holiday Caroling. Meet at 4:30pm at the Cannon Beach Chamber & Information Center.

Saturday 16

MUSIC

Ora Cogan. Singer/Songwriter. 7 - 9pm at Anita in Astoria.

BEARDZ II MEN. 80-90's hip-hop/R&B Tribute Band. \$15 cover, 9pm at the Labor Temple in Astoria.

Kathryn Claire. Winter Songs. \$20, 4pm at the Peninsula Arts Center in Long Beach. Brocco. Jazz/Celtic R&B/Folk. 3 - 5pm at Shelburne Pub in Seaview.

Noah Kite. 7pm at the Sou'wester Lodge in Astoria.

Chelsea LaFey & The Salt Shakers. Jump Blues & Swing. \$15, cash only, plus \$15 for optional BBQ dinner. Dinner at 5:30pm, swing lessons at 6pm, music from 7 - 9pm. At the Seaside Elks Lodge.

Jennifer Goodenberger and Shelley Loring. Holiday concert, 4pm, by donation at Cannon Beach Community Church.

Deb Montgomery. Advent Concert (kind of, sort-of). \$20 suggested donation / pay what you can. 4pm at St Catherine's Episcopal Church in Nehalem.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

Almost Maine. Drama. \$20, 7:30pm at the Ten Fifteen Theater in Astoria.

North Coast Comedy Night. Simon Gibson and Cameron Peloso, with host Drew Wilson-McGrath. \$10, 8pm at the Liberty Theater in Astoria.

Miracle on 34th St. A Holiday classic. \$25 - \$30, 7:30pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

A Christmas Story. \$20, 7 - 9pm at the NCRD Performing Arts Center in Nehalem. Get tickets at riverbendplayers.org

HAPPENING

Holiday 5k Series - Ugly Sweaters. Costumes encouraged. \$15, pre-registration required. 7-7:45am check in, 8am race start at the Astoria Riverwalk in front of the Barbey Maritime Center in Astoria. Register at astoriaparks.com

Pictures with Santa. Free, 11am - 2pm in the Liberty Theater Lobby, Astoria.

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 - 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Holiday Movie Screening. The Grinch. \$5, 6pm at the ASOC Playhouse in Astoria.

Adrift Holiday Bazaar. 9am - 2pm at the Adrift Hotel in Long Beach.

Santa Swim. This event features an open swim, visiting with Santa, and hot cocoa kits. \$4, maximum of \$12 for families. 1 - 3pm at Sunset Pool in Seaside.

Craft Sale. 10am - 4pm at the American Legion in Cannon Beach.

Santa Holiday Party. Take a photo with Santa, dogs welcome. Refreshments, free goodies, & raffle. 3 - 6pm at Salty Raven in Cannon Beach.

Sunday 17

MUSIC

North Coast Chorale. Saint Saen Christmas Oratorio, with soloists and chamber orchestra. 7pm. \$20. Larsen Center PAC.

Live Music. No cover, 6pm in the Lovell Building at Fort George in Astoria.

Kris Stuart. Folk/Blues/Country. 7 - 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

Miracle on 34th St. A Holiday classic. \$25 - \$30, 3pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

A Christmas Story. \$20, 2 - 4pm at the NCRD Performing Arts Center in Nehalem. Get tickets at riverbendplayers.org

HAPPENING

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 - 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Holiday Movie Screening. The Grinch. \$5, 3pm at the ASOC Playhouse in Astoria.

Breakfast with Santa (and Mrs Claus). \$30 for adults, \$15 for kids. 8am - noon at Shelburne Hotel in Seaview.

Artful Breakfast. All you can eat eggs, pancakes, and more \$5, 8am - noon at the Bay City Arts Center.

Tillamook Artisan Fair. Free admission, 9am - 4pm at the Tillamook Senior Center.

Monday 18

MUSIC

Kris Stuart. Folk/Blues/Country. 7 - 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

HAPPENING

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 - 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Tuesday 19

MUSIC

Kris Stuart. Folk/Blues/Country. 7 - 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

Wednesday 20

MUSIC

James Coates. 7 - 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

Miracle on 34th St. A Holiday classic. \$25 - \$30, 7:30pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

Thursday 21

MUSIC

Gregg Skloff and SAUNA. (Drone metal) 8pm. \$5-10 suggested cover 8pm

Obelisk Brewing 598 Bond, Astoria

James Coates. 7 - 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

THEATER & PERFORMANCE

Miracle on 34th St. A Holiday classic. \$25 - \$30, 7:30pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

HAPPENING

Winter Solstice Celebration. Join library staff this Winter Solstice for an evening of music, poetry and more. 6 - 8pm at the Driftwood Public Library in Lincoln City.

Friday 22

MUSIC

White Christmas Sing-A-Long. With the North Coast Chorale. sing-a-long while screening the 1954 film White Christmas. \$10, 7pm at the Liberty Theater in Astoria.

Dead Musicians Society Christmas Extraganza. Local musicians from your favorite Astoria bands team up to present a festive evening of their favorite Christmassy songs and sounds. \$12, 8pm at the Labor Temple in Astoria.

James Coates. 6 - 8pm at Shelburne Hotel in Seaview.

Patrick Lamb. Charlie Brown Christmas. \$20 - \$25, 7:30pm at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

Saturday 23

MUSIC

Live Soul with Red String Theory, Jessie Lee Falls, Heather Christie. \$10, 8pm at the Labor Temple in Astoria.

The Hackles Roots/Folk. 3 - 5pm at Shelburne Pub in Seaview.

Maria Dehart. 7pm at the Sou'wester Lodge in Seaview.

Sunday 24

MUSIC

Live Music. No cover, 6pm in the Lovell Building at Fort George in Astoria.

The Hackles. Roots/Folk. 7 - 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

Tuesday 26

MUSIC

Kendl Winter. Old Town Roots/Bluegrass Banjo. 7 - 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

HAPPENING

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 - 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Wednesday 27

MUSIC

Kendl Winter. Old Town Roots/Bluegrass Banjo. 7 - 9pm at Pickled Fish in Long Beach.

HAPPENING

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 - 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Thursday 28

HAPPENING

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 - 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Friday 29

MUSIC

Colt Lightnin and It&I Other Brothers Bar, 8pm Cannon Beach

HAPPENING

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 - 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Saturday 30

MUSIC

Musical Conversations with Tim Connell and Bernardo Gomez. Free, 2 - 4pm at the Historic Raymond Theater in Raymond.

ART

First Saturday Art Walk. 5 - 7pm in downtown Seaside.

HAPPENING

Holiday 5k Series - New Year's. Costumes encouraged. \$15, pre-registration required. 7 - 7:45am check in, 8am race start at the Astoria Riverwalk in front of the Barbey Maritime Center in Astoria. Register at astoriaparks.com

Tea & Plum Pudding. \$10 - \$12, 1 - 4pm at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

Sunday 31

MUSIC

Terracotta Suns, Knablinz and more. 8pm. Obelisk Brewing, Astoria,

Live Music. No cover, 6pm in the Lovell Building at Fort George in Astoria.

New Year's Eve Show. 8pm at the Labor Temple in Astoria.

HAPPENING

Fallen Heroes New Year's Eve Party. Local musicians will perform covers of classic hits. \$10 suggested donation, 10pm in the McTavish Room at the Liberty Theater in Astoria.

Tuesday 2

LECTURE & LITERARY

Ric's Poetry Open Mic. 7 - 8:30pm at WineKraft in Astoria.

Thursday 4

THEATER & PERFORMANCE.

Misery. Drama. \$20, 7:30pm at Theater West in Lincoln City.

Friday 5

THEATER & PERFORMANCE.

Misery. Drama. \$20, 7:30pm at Theater West in Lincoln City.

HAPPENING

Ecstatic Dance with Amanda. \$10 suggested donation, 6 - 7:15pm at the AAMC in Astoria.

Saturday 6

THEATER & PERFORMANCE.

Misery. Drama. \$20, 7:30pm at Theater West in Lincoln City.



Clatsop Animal Assistance Yearly Fundraiser

Be sure and mark your calendars for the annual CCA Fundraiser. CCA makes it possible for the Clatsop County Animal Shelter to do the excellent work that they do. Since the start of 2023 the shelter has found loving homes for 230 cats and 124 dogs. Your generous contributions allow the dedicated staff and volunteers to focus on daily care, adoption events, medical needs and training without worrying about how to fund it all.

Saturday, Dec 9, from 10am to 3pm. Your pets picture with Santa, raffles, a silent auction and the always popular Bake Sale. At the Fort George Lovell Room in Astoria.



Kathryn Clair Winter Songs

Weaving together songs, instrumentals, traditional and original music and a few covers, Kathryn Claire invites the audience to join together in celebration of the season, and music to honor the shortest days and longest nights. Kathryn Claire has been doing a seasonal winter show since 2013 working with a variety of artists. In 2018, Don Henson joined her for Winter Songs on piano and percussion before incorporating Sid Ditson on violin and viola in 2019. The blend of this trio is stunning and their energy together is joyful and heartfelt.

Having taken the past two years off due to the pandemic, Kathryn, Sid and Don reunited last year and released an EP featuring music Kathryn wrote specifically for the show along with a single "Dark of December".

Saturday, Dec 16 at 4pm. \$20. Peninsula Arts Center in Long Beach, WA. Ticket info at peninsulaartscenter.org

Dec 14

Under The Mistletoe! with SAEEDA WRIGHT and The Portland Cello Project

Born out of the relentless winter months of the Pacific Northwest -- where Christmas sweaters adorn even the animal statues -- this holiday concert hits different.

THE CELLO PROJECT, known for their delightfully dedicated performances of both modern and classical music (and everything in between), invite Saeeda Wright on stage with them to bring a complement of unexpected classical jams to the holiday stage. Expect uniquely jazzy takes on holiday classics from *What Child is This* and *Do You Hear What I Hear* to standards like *What Are You Doing for New Years?*, bridged with Hannukah medleys and hidden gem classical pieces from Benjamin Britten and renaissance rounds made famous by The Monkees. Yes the Monkees!

Just try to be a Scrooge at this concert. Dare is on. There's something for everyone, and all the gifts are tied together by the cello in the unique ways that have made The Cello Project a perennial favorite over the last decade.

SPECIAL GUEST SAEEDA WRIGHT has been seen on stages backing Prince (as a member of his New Power Generation), and she has performed with gospel music greats Jessica Reedy, Cece Winans, Crystal Akin, JJ Harrison, and Yvette Williams. She is regularly featured heating up the stage in The Cello Project's Purple Reign programs, and The Cello Project is honored to have her continue their relationship, warming up some wonderful wintertime favorites on this program as well as a new album -- also called *Under the Mistletoe* with Saeeda Wright -- due out in November 2023.

Thursday, December 14, 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Tickets purchased online can be picked up at any time from the Box Office during regular hours (Tues-Sat 2pm-5:30 pm) and from 2pm on day of show.



Northwest Piano Trio Holiday Concert

NORTHWEST PIANO TRIO return to Cannon Beach to perform a holiday concert, playing holiday and Christmas favorites, including selections from *The Nutcracker*.

The Northwest Piano Trio includes Esther Shim on violin, Hannah Hillebrand on Cello, and pianist Stephanie Smith performing on the Community Church Steinway Model B seven-foot grand piano. The Northwest Piano Trio, founded in 2014, is based in Portland, Oregon.

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations to support Northwest Piano Trio may be given at the door.

Sunday Dec 10 at 3pm. Cannon Beach Community Church, is located at 132 E. Washington in downtown Cannon Beach



ENCORE

ENCORE PERFORMING ARTS Foundation presents its yearly holiday fundraising event. A magical evening featuring a showcase of Encore's skilled Tap and Jazz students, set to the backdrop of festive holiday music, perfect for all ages.

In addition to these captivating performances, Encore's Dance Teams will offer an exclusive sneak peek of their highly anticipated 2024 competition routines! And they've just returned from NYC and performance opportunity dancing with the famous Radio City Rockettes.

In the spirit of giving, admission to the event is a suggested donation of \$15 at the door. Every contribution will directly support the 501(c)3 Encore Performing Arts Foundation. These funds play a vital role in its mission to provide scholarships for aspiring artists within our community, ensuring that talent and passion are never limited by financial barriers.

"The Holiday Spectacular"



TWO PERFORMANCES. Friday Dec 8, 6:30pm at the Liberty Theatre. Saturday, Dec 9, 3pm at the Seaside Convention Center. Admission is one new unwrapped toy benefitting Toys For Tots.

Columbia River Symphony "Holly Days"

THE COLUMBIA RIVER SYMPHONY led by conductor Cory Pederson presents "Holly Days," a family-friendly holiday concert at the Liberty Theater.

For the first time ever, performing with the Columbia River Symphony will be 80-120 students from Astoria School District's Lewis & Clark Elementary School, with music director Dr. Vincent Centeno. Both ensembles will be celebrating the Holidays with traditional and contemporary symphonic & choral music!

Both choir and symphony will perform together and separately, as well as a toe-tapping, wholesome community sing-along for all to conclude the concert! Refreshments will be provided during intermission. Two expertly-made themed quilts will be auctioned off during the concert. Bring your camera, as photo opportunities with Santa will be available in the lobby during intermission and at the conclusion of the



program. Free candy canes to celebrate the holiday season will also be handed out.

Doors open at 6:00 PM. Arrive early and pick up snacks and drinks from our Lower Lobby Concessions to enjoy from your seat during the show!

Saturday, December 9, 7:00pm, General Admission, FREE. At Th Liberty Theatre. Santa Photo Options!

Piano and Flute Christmas Concert Jennifer Goodenberger with Shelley Loring

JENNIFER GOODENBERGER and Shelly Loring perform a holiday concert at the Cannon Beach Community Church. Goodenberger will perform her originals along with holiday favorites, joined by flautist Shelley Loring. This concert is free and open to the public, part of the 2023 6th Annual Fall Steinway Piano Concert Series hosted by the church. This concert will also feature carol singing, with audience members encouraged to choose a favorite carol to sing together.

Jennifer Goodenberger, long-time resident of Astoria, Oregon, is a pianist, composer, visual artist and poet. Her original works range from deeply healing and spiritual compositions to passionate and romantic creations. She has released multiple solo albums of piano originals including "Christmas Reflections," "Sonnet: Poetry for Solo Piano," "Lark in the Clear Air-Contemplative Melodies from Ireland," "Breathe Peace: Original Music composed to create deep relaxation," "Return," "Simple Gifts: American Folk Songs," and her latest 2023 release, "Sound Within, Piano Meditations."

Sunday, Dec 16 at 4pm. Cannon Beach Community Church, is located at 132 E. Washington in downtown Cannon Beach



art happens *openings and news in the LCPR*

Hook, Pulp & Weave *a celebration in fiber art*

IMOGEN hosts the annual Hook, Pulp and Weave—a rich and diverse invitational exhibition exploring fiber as art, opening in conjunction with Astoria's Artwalk, Saturday December 9. Functional and nonfunctional work will be included in this unique exhibition of textile-based arts. Color, texture, and composition form the backbone of this diverse collection designed with the gift giving season in mind. This creative array includes: 2-dimensional fiber drawings by **Kimberly Lakin**, wall hung art and throw pillows by **Pamela Chipman**, felted wool sculpture by **Karen Thurman**, "Freq Flags" by **Jenny Rideout**, nuno felted scarves and wraps by **Julie Kern Smith**, abstract wall hung fiber art of **Susan Circone**, intricate needle woven beaded jewelry by **Celeste Olivares**, large scale needle felted figurative sculpture by **Amelia Santiago** and wraps by local artist **Helen Repp**. Join us in celebrating the season with the artists, Saturday 12/9, 5 - 8 pm. The exhibition will remain on view through January 8.



K. Thurman, Manatee felted wool 15x11x7

Fiber based art has a long running history, with weaving techniques dating back to Neolithic times some 12,000 years ago. It is respected as one of the oldest surviving craft forms in the world that evolved from multiple cultures, including the Incans who utilized textiles as currency, which held a more prominent role than gold for trade. Native Americans, for centuries have created elaborate basketry for all uses, including vessels that were watertight, made from regionally known plant materials. Middle Eastern nomadic tribes, have been respected for intricate hand knotted rugs made of wool and silk, dating back over 4000 years, and the rich illustrative tapestries of the 14th and 15th centuries of European cultures, all helped to forge what we appreciate as textile-based art today. The term "fiber arts" came to be applied much later; post World War II with the resurgence of the craft movement. With this came the recognition of craft as fine art and the diminished idea of utilitarian needs.

While some of the work included to this exhibition is functional, many pieces are based strictly on the principle of art form, utilizing fiber to create compelling and complex pieces.

Imogen Gallery is located at 240 11th Street. Open Thurs - Mon 12 to 5pm, Sun 12 - 4, closed Tue/Wed. www.imogengallery.com 503.468.0620



C. Olivares, The Bridge Over Water necklace, handwoven cord roman glass trade beads aquamarine chrysoprase



J. Rideout, Three Hearts Nine Brains, quilt

THE HOFFMAN GALLERY

closes out the year with an exciting show featuring prints by **Bruce Vincent**, painting by **Robert Procter**, and a group bowl show of coastal ceramic artists.

Tillamook artist Bruce Vincent creates prints with many layers of texture and color using a variety of techniques— monotype, collagraph, dry point, mark making from sketch directly onto the print surface. Though his work leans towards a combination of the representational and the abstract, eddy coastal scenes of rocks, clouds, and boats are at the forefront of this show.



Robert Procter



Bruce Vincent

capture some essence of his model through strong composition—use of color enhances the drawing, to further the story. Procter's show emphasizes the beauty of the coast that surrounds us.

The annual ceramic group show features bowls of all shapes, sizes, and uses. Artists from up and down the Coast present their work for sale. Support local ceramic artists during the holidays!

View art December 1 - 23, Fri thru Sun, 12-4 pm. An artists' reception will be held 2-4 pm on Dec 2nd. Hoffman Center for the Arts is located at 594 Laneda Avenue in Manzanita



THE ASTORIA ART LOFT has "quilts" like you could never imagine. The Loft is currently displaying leading edge fiber art works loosely called quilts.

Created by members of the Grouper Fiber Arts Collaborative, these pieces of art feature unusual designs and stitching that replicate painted strokes. The pieces feature brilliant colors, unique designs and composition.

The exhibit can be experienced through December 16. The Art Loft is open from 10am to 4pm Tues through Sat or by appt. Located at 106 3rd St. in Astoria

FINE ART SUPPLY

Open Tues-Sat 10-5:30
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Zenscapes Sam Blair at LightBox

LIGHTBOX Photographic Gallery opens "Zenscapes" a solo exhibit by Sam Blair, on Saturday, December 9, with opening Artist Reception from 4-7pm.

In Zenscapes, Blair attempts to reveal visually the concept of "tada ima," only now, which means living with the awareness that all we really have in our lives is the present moment.

"When that mental state is achieved, it creates a feeling of oneness and connection with the universe, and is the well spring to the inherent joy, happiness, and inner peace within each and every one of us. My hope is that from your looking at the images I am able to share with you a bit of the peace and joy I felt while making them," states Blair.

Sam Blair is a retired civil litigator who has pursued his passion for travel and fine art photography, self-taught his mission is to capture "the essence of things" in other cultures, beaches, and the fascinating homo sapien. He has explored over 90 countries. He is a longtime student of Zen Buddhism and haiku poet. His poems have been published in multiple literary anthologies and journals.

Also enjoy The Guild at LightBox—a group of photographers that exhibit work regularly at the gallery as well as support the mission of the gallery.

LightBox is located at 1045 Marine Drive in Astoria, Open Wed - Sat 12 to 5pm. Visit lightbox-photographic.com



Richard Rowland Ahikaarua Kate Speranza Found Objects



Awaiting the fire-half kiln load

RIVERSEA GALLERY opens two exhibitions featuring anagama ceramics by Richard Rowland and found-object jewelry and small works by Kate Speranza beginning at noon on Saturday, December 9 during Artwalk. Meet the artists at the opening reception from 5:00 to 8:00. Evening festivities include seasonal refreshments with musical accompaniment by guitarist Wes Wahrmond. Both shows continue through January 9, 2024, with early release of some pieces for holiday gifts.

Richard Rowland presents Ahikaarua, an exhibition of his wood-fired ceramics. The title is taken from the name of his hillside anagama kiln in the forested outskirts of Astoria. Since retiring this summer from teaching ceramics at Clatsop Community College, he has devoted months to experimenting with exciting new sculptural and functional forms. All the pieces in this show are from the most recent firing and were unloaded from Ahikaarua on November 26.

Rowland's artistic practice is imbued with cultural identity, sense of place, and

devotion to community. Born in Hawaii, he feels profoundly connected to his Polynesian heritage, yet also deeply influenced by the Oregon coastal forest where he has lived for decades. He works from a studio open to surrounding evergreens, alders, vine maples, and a lush tumble of undergrowth. Several stately cedars wear their years with rugged grace, and Rowland considers them as sacred embodiments of the spirits of his ancestors, elders who offer guidance and a connection to his cultural roots. Many of the pieces in this exhibition subtly reference Hawaiian cultural concepts, legends, and mythology. Some are experimental works with melted obsidian and feldspar crystals. Others are elegantly simple, functional forms. All display the hand of an artist at the height of his mastery.

Each firing of Ahikaarua is a special event built on the contributions of many. To pull it off, Rowland works in close partnership with a fellowship of volunteer assistants. Collecting and preparing seven cords of wood for Ahikaarua takes several months, loading hundreds of ceramic works into the kiln takes three

days, the firing is actively stoked and continuously monitored over seven days, and cooling takes two weeks. Over the long firing period, the interaction between materials from the land—clay and wood—and the elemental force of fire create a seemingly magical transformation. The fire-marks and melted wood ash left on the clay surfaces lend a character to each piece that tells the story of its journey through the fire.

Rowland, an internationally recognized ceramic artist, designed his kiln and guided its construction over several years. It was given its name, Ahikaarua ("fire from long ago"), by nine Māori clay artists who traveled from New Zealand at his invitation for the naming and firing ceremony in 2018. Ahikaarua takes the place of its precursor, the Astoria Dragon Kiln, a similar style kiln built by Rowland in 1981 that served, through more than 100 firings, to create a wood-fire ceramics community centered on the north coast

In Found Objects, Kate Speranza, a multi-media artist from Astoria, showcases a new collection of jewelry and small artworks featuring found materials and objects ranging

from natural to manufactured. Her elegantly crafted work offers formal composition, rustic grit, and a bit of bling. Some of her jewelry features diamonds playfully juxtaposed with weathered iron. Speranza is driven by curiosity and an interest in history to seek out intriguing old objects, many of questionable purpose and mysterious provenance. She repurposes them into small treasures, ready for a new life. She'll also have an enhanced selection of her popular Astoria Sidewalk Glass jewelry.

RiverSea Gallery is open daily at 1160 Commercial Street in the heart of historic Astoria. For more information, call the gallery at 503-325-1270, or visit the website at riverseagallery.com.

PHOTOS: Jodi Miller



Firing, Adding wood to the kiln



Unloading—first peek



Elemental Strength

Astoria Visual Arts: Fire Brands Takeover

AVA welcomes Portland ceramists **Joe Robinson, Eli Pilkington and Calvin Bartlett** for "**Fire Brands**," an exhibit curated by Barry Calvarese of Nehalem. Each artist's stoneware was fired in the 40-foot East Creek anagama kiln located in Willamina, Oregon. Built in 1983 and founded by Nils Lou, it is the oldest anagama kiln of its kind west of the Mississippi with the mission of bringing ceramic wood-fire education to the west coast. East Creek is also a community hub, home to a 5,000 square foot studio for ceramics, wood, metal, and glass artists, where artists teach workshops, complete residencies, and share in collaborative education and community building.

Each piece created in the East Creek anagama kiln, Japanese for "cave kiln," embodies the unique natural elements found within that region, utilizing flame and wood ash to deliver unpredictable and alluring results. In a marathon firing that lasts 24-hours a day for a week straight, each time the wood-fire kiln is loaded, it takes a community to fire it. The results of this ancient, collaborative craft continue to captivate humans as they have for millennia.

See "Fire Brands" from December 9 through January 7 at AVA, 1000 Duane Street in Astoria, open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11:00am to 3:00pm. ages and walks of life to engage with the arts.

AVA's Ceramics Nook Fundraiser

Opening during Artwalk on December 9, Astoria Visual Arts is hosting a cash and carry event, the Ceramics Nook Fundraiser. Raid your cupboard and shelves and consider donating utilitarian, hand-made ceramic wares (cups, mugs, bowls, planters, etc.) to AVA before December 8. Then come back and do your holiday shopping at AVA from December 9 - 24 and find a treasure for yourself or a loved one! Every dollar raised supports AVA's nonprofit gallery and youth arts education program.

To donate ceramic work, drop off pieces during AVA's open hours Friday through Sunday from 11:00am to 3:00pm, call or text 503-791-0575 or email astoriavisualarts@gmail.com.

AVA's Artist-in-Residence Program

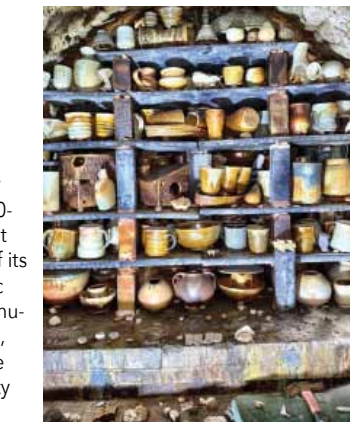
Astoria Visual Arts invites local artists residing in Clatsop and Pacific County to apply to be AVA's next artist-in-residence. One artist will be selected to receive in a rent-free studio space at the Astoria Studio Collective located at 372 10th Street for a period of six months, January 1 through June 30, 2024. Artists working in any media are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is December 16. to apply, visit www.astoriavisualarts.org.

Colin Meston Made in Astoria The Path of The Flame

BRICK BY BRICK, passed from hand to hand, the door of Richard Rowland's anagama kiln, Ahikaarua, gets slowly dismantled and begins to reveal the long awaited treasures inside. Numerous artists, renowned ceramists, and community members gather around, assisting when needed. The fall air is crisp. Onlookers wait eagerly with anticipation. Colin Meston of Astoria is one of the potters waiting for the reveal, eager to see if his reduction experiments turned out. He contributed two truck beds of bisque ware to this firing, consisting of over 500 collective pieces, and was present during numerous all-nighters, stoking Ahikaarua continuously to maintain the extreme heat required for the magic transformation of wood ash to glaze. It's a labor of love, a community effort, and a magnificent scientific experiment.

"I strive to make mostly utilitarian ceramic pieces that have simple but strong forms," says Meston, "My work is inspired by the natural world and rooted in the long tradition of the craft." A biological scientist with roots in environmental conservation, Meston is captivated by the wood firing process, its organic nature, the many variables, some predictable and some unknown.

Meston's solo show, "Path of The Flame," December 9 through January 3, features an array of traditional utilitarian favorites with a number of geometric forms and vessels, designed to explore the wood-fire process. In one rectangular form, Meston made a hole all the way through, and placed a large vase directly behind it, allowing the flame to pass through the hole to create a



East Creek anagama kiln



design on the vase. He was quite pleased his experiment worked. Meet Meston during Artwalk on December 9 from 4:00 to 6:00pm.

Michael and Martha Grano's jewelry show "Metal + Fire + Stone" continues for a second month with new modern designs. Meet the husband and wife duo on Artwalk from 4:00 to 6:00pm.

Made in Astoria, 1269 Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12:00 to 5:00pm and by



LEO is a 2-year-old male Anatolian Shepherd in search of a loving home. Despite his imposing bark, he's a gentle giant with a calm and easygoing disposition that makes him an endearing companion!

While born with a congenital leg malformation, Leo's zest for life remains unimpeded. The surgeon advises against surgery due to its complexity and because Leo's mobility is unaffected. His love for walking and even running with his unique gait showcases his resilient spirit.

With his commanding yet affectionate presence, Leo promises to be an adored addition to any family willing to reassure him in unfamiliar environments and provide him with the care and affection he deserves.

STEVIE

Hey, hey, hey! I'm Stevie. The nice people at the shelter think I'm just about a year old, and as a big dog in training, still a puppy.

I am an energetic, playful guy and a very quick study: treat-motivated and easy to train. I am healthy, happy, and friendly.

On command, I will sit, shake hands, stay/wait, lie down/stay, and catch treats from 10 feet away! I work hard to contain my excitement when I'm walking on a leash.

I am crate- and house-trained and I love retrieving (though still working on the giving back part) and chewing on my toys. I am ready for my adoptive home with a dog-savvy person or people who love the challenges presented by smart dogs, and an ac-

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.
More info: 360.642.1180.



By Kate Cooper • Animal Rescue Volunteer

By Tobin Nason

Living Simply ... Or Simply Living?

w o r d w i s d o m

I RECENTLY met up with a friend in Portland over lunch. This person had experienced a few setbacks and disappointments in the last few years. He's trying hard to make sense of his new reality. This person loves his new job—manning a food truck. He earns less than he once did but he's finding some joy in the freedom that simplicity has brought to his life.

He talks of a change in lifestyle. More thoughtful endeavors, such as reading, writing, walking the city mindfully, less frivolous spending, less bar hopping with friends.

Having less money is not a life sentence. It often brings about more clarity and a different direction. A life learning event. On the flip side—will your best frugal, pared down lifestyle give you a satisfying life? Or will it rob you of experiences and adventures? Both experiences and adventures were important to this person at one time. Now he's enjoying a simpler life. Quieter, more reflective. I see a new maturity blooming.

Sometimes downsizing; home, lifestyle, expectations, can result in a true blessing. Simplicity in life strips a person down to a basic core of appreciation for a life that is not dependent upon material goods and money.



COUNSELOR'S ADVICE: Take what comes your way as an invitation to explore the world with new eyes and a new heart.

A very simple song written by the Shakers (a more radical form of the Quakers) honors this idea:

“It's a gift to be simple
‘Tis the gift to be free
And when we find
Ourselves
In the place just right
Twill be in the Valley
Of Love and Delight.”

Tobi Nason, counselor, lives a simple life in Warrenton. Call (503) 440-0587 for an appointment.

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FLASH CUTS

MOVIES & MUSINGS

THEATRICAL / STREAMING RELEASES DEC'23

BY LES KANEKUNI

MAY DECEMBER (DEC. 1 NETFLIX) Director Todd Haynes (Carol) returns with this story of buried secrets being uncovered with consequences for all involved. Natalie Portman plays Elizabeth, an actress. "I want to find a character that's on the surface, difficult to understand. Were they born or were they made?" says Elizabeth when asked by a student. Elizabeth is set to portray Gracie (Julianne Moore), who caused a scandal 20 years previously when in her mid-30s she was found having sex in a pet store stockroom with her then 13-year-old co-worker, Korean-American Joe Yoo (Charles Melton). While in prison, Gracie gave birth to their child. Now, married and living quietly in Savannah, Joe and Gracie must deal with the presence of Elizabeth, who has come to research their story, in particular the woman she will be playing. Joe and Gracie are at a transition point in their marriage with their kids leaving soon for college, and both are unsettled. At first, Elizabeth seems a benign presence, asking softball questions while taking notes. But as her questions to Gracie become more pointed, trying not just to grasp Gracie's mindset in seducing a child, but going far beyond that to the point of attempting to seduce Joe, it becomes clear Elizabeth has more on her mind than simply researching a role.

AMERICAN FICTION (DEC. 22) Already being touted as a Best Picture contender, Jeffrey Wright stars as an unsuccessful serious writer who accidentally becomes an overnight sensation writing exactly the kind of popular fiction he hates. Wright plays Thelonious "Monk" Ellison, a literature professor whose modern reworking of Aeschylus unsurprisingly fails to sell. "They want a Black book," his editor Arthur tells him. Monk investigates popular African-American writers and is appalled when he attends a reading by Sinatara Golden (Issa Rae), whose book 'We's Lives in Da Ghetto' is full of slang and urban stories catering to white publishers' stereotypes. Angry and frustrated, Monk dashes off a "street lit" satire called 'My Pafology' sends it to Arthur and tells him to submit it to publish-

ers under the pseudonym Stag R. Leigh. But the joke's on Monk. Arthur excitedly informs Monk that the white editors at a publisher have gone crazy over his hack manuscript, offering a million dollar. They particularly love Monk's fictitious backstory of Stag R. Leigh being a fugitive from the law. Faced with his bluff being called and in need of funds for a nursing home for his ill mother, Monk takes the plunge and begins a double life as literature professor/gangsta best seller writer.

MAESTRO (DEC. 20 NETFLIX) In his second stint behind the camera, Bradley Cooper directs and stars as legendary bisexual conductor Leonard Bernstein and his enduring, complicated marriage to Felicia Montealegre (Carey Mulligan). After an opener, we jump to 1943, when then 25-year-old New York Philharmonic assistant conductor Bernstein receives a call telling him he will be leading the orchestra for the first time after the conductor falls ill. Lenny virtually leaps over his sleeping lover David (Matt Bomer) and races to Carnegie Hall. After the triumphant show, Lenny's star ascends, but his life changes when he meets Felicia at his sister Shirley's cocktail party (Sarah Silverman). They are instantly besmirched, but even as they marry and have children, their's is an unorthodox marriage. Felicia knows Lenny has another side. "There's a price for being in my brother's life," Shirley tells Felicia. While Lenny genuinely seems to love Felicia, there's always the question (never answered) of whether he's using her in a time when being openly gay wasn't permissible.

JOAN BAEZ I AM A NOISE (PPV) Eye-opening documentary covers the career ups and downs of the legendary singer, from her meteoric rise to stardom in the folk scene of the early '60s, to her liaison with Bob Dylan, and social activism. After a 60-year performing career, filmmakers shadow Baez on her final tour, where the nearly 80-year-old shows that while her voice may be diminished by time, her performance can still thrill audiences. Biggest revelation is Baez talking about her own personal fail-



ings. "I'm not very good with one-on-one relationships," she says. "I'm great with one on 2,000." Baez's reflections on the past become deeply personal when she talks of her sister Mimi having and inappropriate encounter with her father, then later after visiting her therapist, her own.

POOR THINGS (DEC. 22) Yorgos Lanthimos (The Favourite) returns with perhaps his most twisted, fantastical film yet, an adult fantasy about literally the making of a woman. Emma Stone, in a career-peak role, plays Bella a woman in Victorian England. Pregnant and trapped in an unhappy marriage, she throws herself off a bridge, only to be literally reborn when mad scientist Godwin Baxter (Willem Dafoe) transplants the mind of her unborn child into her. Bella becomes a full-grown woman with the mind of an infant. Her movements are clumsy, speech minimal, but also prone to violent tantrums and destruction. Bella's inevitable sexual awakening occurs with Godwin's assistant Max (Ramy Youssef). After Max and Bella express mutual romantic interest, Bella exclaims "Let us touch each other's genital pieces!" Bella then meets English cad Duncan Wedderburn (Mark Ruffalo), who offers her the world. Bella, who's been confined to Godwin's house, assents and the two are off to Europe, where the controlling Duncan tries to get the impulsive Bella to conform to society's expectations for a woman. "I must go punch that baby," says Bella, referring to a crying baby in a dining room. As with all Lanthimos' films, the initial weird comedy yields to a much darker tone when the truth about the human behavior the film has been examining becomes inescapable. Bella learns just how difficult being an independent woman in a male-dominated world can be, as we learn more about her past and the story circles back to its opening on the bridge.

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

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DECEMBER 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): As a child, I loved to go to a meadow and whirl around in spirals until I got so dizzy, I fell. As I lay on the ground, the earth, sky, and sun reeled madly, and I was no longer just a pinpoint of awareness lodged inside my body, but was an ecstatically undulating swirl in the kaleidoscopic web of life. Now, years later, I've discovered many of us love spinning. Scientists postulate humans have a desire for the intoxicating vertigo it brings. I would never recommend you do what I did as a kid; it could be dangerous for some of you. But if it's safe and the spirit moves you, do it! Or at least imagine yourself doing it. Do you know about the Sufi Whirling Dervishes who use spinning as a meditation? Read here: tinyurl.com/JoyOfWhirling and tinyurl.com/SufiSpinning

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your power creature in the coming weeks will not be an eagle, wolf, bear, or salmon. I don't advise you to dream of being a wild horse, tiger, or crocodile. Instead, I invite you to cultivate a deep bond with the mushroom family. Why? Now is a favorable time to be like the mushrooms that keep the earth fresh. In wooded areas, they eat away dead trees and leaves, preventing larger and larger heaps of compost from piling up. They keep the soil healthy and make nutrients available for growing things. Be like those mushrooms, Taurus. Steadily and relentlessly rid your world of the defunct and decaying parts—thereby stimulating fertility.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gemini novelist Geraldine McCaughrean wrote, "Maybe courage is like memory—a muscle that needs exercise to get strong. So I decided that maybe if I started in a small way, I could gradually work my way up to being brave." That is an excellent prescription for you: the slow, incremental approach to becoming bolder and pluckier. For best results, begin practicing on mild risks and mellow adventures. Week by week, month by month, increase the audacious beauty of your schemes and the intensity of your spunk and fortitude. By mid-2024, you will be ready to launch a daring project.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian neurologist and author Oliver Sacks worked with people who had unusual neurological issues. His surprising conclusion: "Defects, disorders, and diseases can play a paradoxical role, by bringing out latent powers, developments, and evolutions that might never be seen in their absence." In not all cases, but more often than seemed reasonable, he found that disorders could be regarded as creative—"for if they destroy particular paths, particular ways of doing things, they may force unexpected growth." Your assignment is to meditate on how the events of your life might exemplify the principle Sacks marvels at: apparent limitations leading to breakthroughs and bonanzas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I am falling in love with how deeply you are falling in love with new ways of seeing and understanding yourself. My heart sings as I listen to your heart singing in response to new attractions. Keep it up, Leo! You are having an excellent influence on me. My dormant potentials and drowsy passions are stirring as I behold you waking up and coaxing out your dormant potentials and drowsy passions. Thank you, dear!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo journalist Sydney J. Harris offered advice I suggest you meditate on. He wrote, "Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is insupportable." I bring this to your attention because now is a favorable time to take action on things you have not yet done—and should do. If you put definitive plans in motion soon, you will ensure that regret won't come calling in five years. (PS: Amazingly, it's also an excellent time to dissolve regret you feel for an iffy move you made in the past.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In contrast to false stereotypes, Medieval Europeans were not dirty and unhygienic. They made soap

and loved to bathe. Another bogus myth says the people of the Middle Ages believed the Earth was flat. But the truth was that most educated folks knew it was round. And it's questionable to refer to this historical period as backward, since it brought innovations like mechanical timekeepers, moveable type, accurate maps, the heavy plow, and illuminated manuscripts. In this spirit, and in accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to strip away misconceptions and celebrate actual facts in your own sphere. Be a scrupulous revealer, a conscientious and meticulous truth-teller.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio poet John Berryman said, "To grow, we must travel in the direction of our fears." Yikes! I personally wouldn't want to do that kind of growth all the time. I prefer traveling cheerfully in the direction of my hopes and dreams. But then I'm not a Scorpio. Maybe Berryman's strategy for fulfilling one's best destiny is a Scorpio superpower. What do you think? One thing I know for sure is that the coming weeks will be an excellent time to re-evaluate and reinvent your relationship with your fears. I suggest you approach the subject with a beginner's mind. Empty yourself of all your previous ideas and be open to healing new revelations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian poet Nina Cassian said, "I promise to make you so alive that the fall of dust on furniture will deafen you." I think she meant she would fully awaken the senses of her readers. She would boost our capacity for enchantment and entice us to feel interesting emotions we had never experienced. As we communed with her beautiful self-expression, we might even reconfigure our understanding of who we are and what life is about. I am pleased to tell you, Sagittarius, that even if you're not a writer, you now have an enhanced ability to perform these same services—both for yourself and for others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Sometimes I get lonesome for a storm," says Capricorn singer-songwriter Joan Baez. "A full-blown storm where everything changes." That approach has worked well for her. At age 82, she has released 30 albums and is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She has recorded songs in eight languages and has been honored by Amnesty International for her work on behalf of human rights. If you're feeling resilient—which I think you are—I recommend that you, too, get lonesome for a storm. Your life could use some rearrangement. If you're not feeling wildly bold and strong, maybe ask the gods for a mild squall.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Science educator Neil deGrasse Tyson tells us that water molecules we drink have "passed through the kidneys of Socrates, Genghis Khan, and Joan of Arc." The same prodigious truth applies to the air we breathe: It has "passed through the lungs of Napoleon, Beethoven, and Abraham Lincoln." Tyson would have also been accurate if he said we have shared water and air that has been inside the bodies of virtually every creature who has ever lived. I bring these facts to your attention, Aquarius, in the hope of inspiring you to deepen your sense of connectedness to other beings. Now is an excellent time to intensify your feelings of kinship with the web of life. Here's the practical value of doing that: You will attract more help and support into your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I am saying a prayer for you. I pray to the Fates that you will not accept lazy or careless efforts from others. You won't allow their politeness to be a cover-up for manipulateness. I also pray that you will cultivate high expectations for yourself. You won't be an obsessive perfectionist, but will be devoted to excellence. All your actions will be infused with high integrity. You will conscientiously attend to every

IN REVEIW • BY NANCY COOK

I Sing the Salmon Home: Poems from Washington State

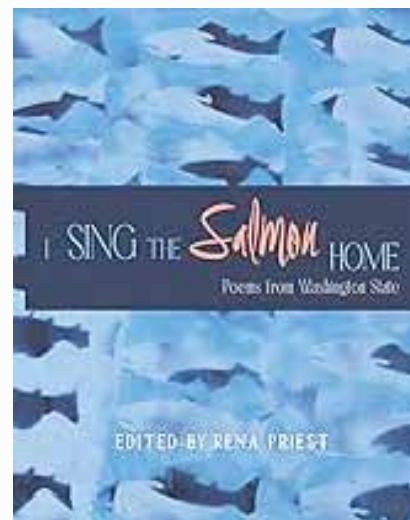
edited with introduction by
Washington Poet Laureate
Rena Priest

Empty Bowl Press 2023

"SALMON are the unsung heroes of our region. ... central to our Sche'le'ngen, our way of life. Salmon are sacred to my tribe, the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation. We celebrate them in ceremony and song," wrote Bellingham-based poet Rena Priest, in her August 2022 poet laureate call for salmon poetry submissions. That was August 2022; by October's deadline, the response was overwhelming: 500 poems from 300 poets and all corners of what's now called Washington. From elementary youth to tribal elders, from unfamiliar names to Tess Gallagher, Ray Carver, *I Sing The Salmon Home*, finely crafted through Fisher Poet Holly Hughes' nonprofit Empty Bowl Press is a truly inspiring collection, from cover-to-cover—quiet spawning gravels to stormy sea.

Priest's own elegy (*A Poem Is a Naming Ceremony* (2021) opens with lament: "The rivers have grown murky with timber trash / there's enough run-off cow manure to grow corn" but soon darts upstream, spawning hope: "I don't want to think about / what has gone away. I want to meander and play / forget myself until I can grow a new me / in place of all this grief—learn the language to see." That deeply hopeful imperative to truly see and to celebrate aptly describes the editorial choices in this gorgeous book I've nicknamed "the salmon blue book" or more simply, the "blue salmon bible."

Collectively these *Sing the Salmon* poems offer a bonafied feast of home-grown sensory detail, evoking not only our beloved salmonids, but also the ravishing (sometimes ravished) beauty of this Cascadia homeland: "Between sparse old shoreline spruce / the moon is a silver wing" (Robert Sund). "At Kalaloch, she picks lichen from the black limb" (Ann Spiers). "Like veins, rivers flow / red with / ripened bodies (Em Erata-Berkel). Even the Table of Contents reads like a familiar poetic roadmap: *Suquamish Waters*, *The Upper Reaches*, *Ode on a Granite Slab*, and of course, *Salmon*, *My Salmon*, *The Salmon*, *Spring Salmon at Night*, *Salmon Suite*. The lengthy contributor notes read like a Who's-Who of post-pandemic NW literati, but digesting these poems cover to cover, who was who feels unimportant. Each voice honors the ordinary magic of out regions diverse salmon life cycles—countless tributaries, flow to the same ocean.



As Priest writes in her introduction, wild Pacific salmon—Oncorhynchus gorbushka, nerka, kistuch, keta, tshawytscha, coho, sockeye, king, chum, king—are keystone species indicative wider ecosystem health. Her chosen epitaph honors the late Billy Frank Jr, Nisqually Earth warrior: "[Salmon] tell us how healthy things are. How healthy we are. Because we and they are the same." Thoughtful subtitles further highlight the breadth and at times sobering depth of reflection shining thru this diverse pool of poems: **Wild, Sacred** : : **Sojourn** : : **Invisible Thread** : : **Fish School** : : **Gratitude** : : **Choices** : : **Vigil**—and finally, **What We Owe**, which includes Scott T. Starbuck's Three Sockeye in Columbia River, Oregon: "Salmon people have spoken." And "What did they say? / Water is too hot to survive / and you're next / unless you listen and change / the curse you put on us / will be on you and your children." Starbuck's imagery—eyeless fish, fungi-ridden gills—is haunting, but necessary; and it swims in solidarity with so many uplifting poems. The juxtaposition of diverse, deeply personal voices, reminds readers what some deem sacred, can also be mundane.

I felt especially moved by the late Gail Tremblay's *Comparing Sockeye and King Salmon*, which opens with a straightforward inventory of filets in the fridge: "next to sockeye, a piece of king is thick and pale." Within a few lines, Tremblay conjures a sensual intimacy with the fish, which are food: "between the teeth. This moment is pure chemistry / the instant pleasure that makes eating art / instead of merely feeding the gut." On first read I'm salivating for summer's grill, but a second read brings on a wave of bittersweet conviction: Consuming wild salmon IS communion—with both literal and liminal landscape. That's a tenet long recognized through traditional ecological wisdom, and a practice made real by the native and non-native voices in this blue salmon bible. Anyone who serves fish for supper should own this book. *I Sing the Salmon Home* is a true gift—for under the tree, and for the salmon.

HOMEWORK: READ INSPIRATIONAL INSIGHTS ABOUT YOUR ASTROLOGICAL SIGN IN MY NEW BOOK: **ASTROLOGY IS REAL** GET IT AT: [FREEWILLASTROLOGY.COM](https://freewillastrology.com)

Grinches Unite!

DO YOU WINCE as you watch your neighbors pluck fake spiderwebs out of their hedges the day after Halloween to make room for an inflatable Santa? Do you cringe when you hear golden-oldie holiday songs playing at the grocery store for six weeks straight? Do you run and hide when your family buys tickets for the beloved holiday show they've attended for decades? If you're an otherwise kind soul who happens to dislike the December holidays, rest assured, you are not alone. Or you might adore the holiday season in general but have a nit to pick about a particular aspect: the commercialization of a religious occasion, pressure from loved ones to eat things that make you feel awful, the waste generated by all that wrapping paper and evergreens, or the dubious aesthetics of socks that light up and play tinny versions of "Deck the Halls." Whether you detest the whole package or a specific component, I feel you.

For such a happy occasion, folks feel outsized pressure to perform: days occupied with cooking, baking, and cleaning for guests; hours spent in search of the "perfect" gift for everyone you know (even glancingly); getting a cramp in your hand from writing holiday cards; frenzied preparations for travel to the homes of distant family members... A vast

deposit of discomfort lies in the gap between the compulsory cheer of the season and the stress that arises from creating that nostalgic-movie perfection. This scenario also assumes that we genuinely enjoy all the people we host and visit. The holidays can be an especially painful time for people



who contend with difficult, unkind, or abusive family members, with whom we're expected to interact as if they've done (and are doing) no harm. Many are the family feasts that end in food fights, whether it's cruel words or cranberry sauce that gets flung.

Consider also the effects of our society's holiday excesses on children. How do we inculcate values like compassion and non-attachment to material goods when well-meaning loved ones bury the kids in a mountain of toys and gadgets? How do we

cultivate both gratitude and honesty when children are the recipients of items they didn't ask for and don't like? It's understandably uncomfortable to entreat a child to thank a relative for an unwanted item that they'll then donate to the thrift shop the next day...not the message most of us prefer to send.

And so my holiday wish for you is that you may find the strength, courage, and playful inventiveness to move against the current wherever you need to and create celebrations that offer you meaning, beauty, and above all, restfulness. This will look different for everyone because many of us enjoy some aspects of the holiday season but for the sake of our mental health, need to kick the rest to the curb. And if it seems daunting to move against the tide under pressure from family, friends, and the endless

loop of tunes from the 1950s, just remember the strength that lies in numbers. Grinches unite! We can get together and change or avoid those traditions that lack significance for us and cause us spiritual, emotional, financial, and/or ecological distress. If you like nostalgic songs, crazy Christmas sweaters, and/or huge gatherings, enjoy them in good health. But if any or all of these things don't appeal, then please do whatever you need to stay well, happy, and in balance—and don't let anyone put coal in your stocking for doing so.

Ales & Ideas Presents "An Ounce of Prevention: What in Healthcare Helps us Live Longer?"

JOIN CC COLLEGE And Fort George Brewery for the next Ales & Ideas Lecture on Thursday, December 7th, 7pm. OHSU professors Dr. Miguel Marino and Dr. John Heintzman will be discussing healthcare and if it helps us live longer.



Dr. Miguel Marino

Our society spends billions of dollars on healthcare every year, and sometimes it is unclear whether our healthcare system is more help or headache. Additionally, there are multiple opinions in culture on how to live a long, healthy life. Drs. Heintzman and Marino will discuss the intersection of these ideas: what if any healthcare services prevent us from (or reduce the chance of) dying younger

than we would like? The answers may be different than you think.

Miguel Marino PhD is an Associate Professor of Biostatistics at Oregon Health and Science University in the Departments of Family Medicine and in the School of Public Health. He has spent his career doing research on how we understand the effectiveness, efficiency, and equitability of healthcare policies. He



Dr. John Heintzman

co-Directs the PRIMER (Primary Care Latino Equity Research) Center at OHSU. Outside of research, Miguel can be found fishing the Oregon rivers, sampling hazy beers, and cooking what Oregon has to offer.

John Heintzman MD is a family doctor, Associate Professor and researcher at OHSU and at OCHIN, Inc (a Portland non-profit that supplies and maintains computerized record systems to clinics who see underserved communities). He studies if and how patients across our state and country access routine primary care, and whether that care is delivered equitably and efficiently. He co-Directs the PRIMER (Primary Care Latino Equity Research) Center at OHSU. When not working, he can be found fermenting various foods at home, cooking large pieces of meat over fires, exploring Pacific Northwest Oregon trails with his wife and sons, or chasing fish and game in Oregon rivers and forests.

Doors open at the Lovell Showroom at 6 p.m., with food, ales, and other beverages available; no purchase necessary. Minors are welcome at this FREE event.

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FOOD GROOVE

IT'S BEEN 9 YEARS next month since I wrote this column. We were in the midst of an appalling presidential campaign. The gloves had come off. All pretense of civility had melted away like a marshmallow atop steamy hot chocolate leaving a sticky scum behind, this one decidedly not marshmallow luscious. With minimal editing, I now demonstrate just how much the more things change, the more they stay the same.

What the H-E-double toothpicks is going on? That's my first question. Every night I go to bed hoping to wake up to a recognizable form of planetary sanity. Then I read the paper. An hour later when my blood pressure no longer resembles the sulfur pots at Yellowstone, I wonder about this stuff:

How did we hardworking, conscientious, mostly ethical folks manage to pick such unlikely people to make decisions for us? Seriously, we wouldn't last a New York minute at our jobs if we behaved as those who would be king behave.

How did a nifty idea like capitalism get severed from even the vaguest hint of morality?

How did morality get so hopelessly tangled up with religious mythologies?

When did admitting error become so abhorrent that some of our candidates refuse to do it? Given that making errors daily is pretty much the definition of being human, denying you made a mistake is a toddler's move.

When you're being killed do you prefer it to be by your own government or the invading forces?

Why do we think we know what's best for the rest of the planet when our own house is such a mess?



When did we start thinking that the things we once held as priceless - our water, air, land and wildlife - were suddenly up for sale?

Maybe all this fruitless wondering is the natural result of the dark months. Maybe it's the cold. Maybe it's reality. Maybe it's 'D'. All of the above.

I generally opt for the long view which goes something like this: At some point a second person took up residence on the planet and things have been screwy ever since. It's pretty clear they'll stay that way until we all decamp. Then woe be unto wherever we land.

Here are the very few things I know for certain today. I'm cold. Turn on the furnace cold. I know that a sure cure for the chills is something savory bubbling in the oven. I know what's for dinner.

Scalloped potatoes are creamy, comforting luxury. Putting a dish of them on the dinner table just makes me happy. And warm. They are also the gift that keeps on giving. Leftovers become a deluxe breakfast when sautéed in a bit of butter and topped with an over easy egg. Leftover leftovers become creamy potato soup with addition of some stock.

As far as I can tell, doing something delicious for those closest to us is the best defense against a cold, cruel world. It is the portal through which we can see the beauty and magic that abounds either despite of or because of the madness. That last part is not on my list of Things I'm Sure Of. Frankly, my list of Things I'm Sure Of is damn short.

CHEW ON THIS!

by Merianne Myers



H-E-DOUBLE TOOTHPICKS SCALLOPED POTATOES

Preheat oven to 350

I use a 8" X 12" baking dish. You can use whatever you like. The size will determine the amount of ingredients and number of layers you'll need. A minimum of 3 layers is recommended. The amounts below are what I use for my baking dish. Increase them or reduce them as you wish keeping the ratios approximately the same.

Start with:

- 3 medium potatoes, peeled (or not) and thinly sliced
- 1 large onion, peeled and thinly sliced in half-rounds
- 1 1/2 cups diced ham or a handful of crisped, chopped bacon or tiny chunks of smoked salmon (all optional)
- Ina Garten adds sliced fennel to this. It's lovely but not mandatory

Make a Béchamel or White Sauce:

- 3 Tablespoons butter
- 3 Tablespoons flour
- 2 Cups milk or cream
- Dash of nutmeg
- Pinch of dry mustard (optional)
- Salt & Pepper

Melt the butter in a sauce pan over medium heat until bubbly. Add the flour and stir to form a paste. Cook for a couple of minutes but do not allow to brown. Add the milk or cream and heat through, stirring until it thickens to a velvety sauce. Add salt and pepper to taste along with the nutmeg and mustard.

Butter the baking dish. Cover the bottom of the dish with meat or fish if using. Top with a layer of potato slices and onions. Sprinkle sparingly with salt & pepper. Ladle cream sauce over the layer and repeat until you have used up all the ingredients or the pan is full. Finish with a layer of sauce. If you're feeling fancy you can top with garlic breadcrumbs, frizzled shallots, gated cheese, a package of crispy fried onions or something I haven't thought of.

Bake for 45 minutes to an hour or until potatoes are tender when pierced with a fork.

Enjoy the feeling of warmth and well-being that results. All might not be right with the world but if your world is right right now, don't forget to notice.



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Look up!.....
start seeing
architecture.

By Eric Wheeler

The Architect Hound

Grace Episcopal Church in Astoria

THE ARCHITECT HOUND is back in town after a month of travel and eager to ramble around on the North Coast looking for architectural gems. This month we spotlight Grace Episcopal Church (1885) at 1545 Franklin Avenue, located in the heart of the Fort Hill historic neighborhood.

The Episcopal church in the US has historic roots in the Church of England, and many of the early settlers and city builders were Anglo-Americans arriving in Astoria from New England and New York. The Episcopal



Gothic Interior

community was organized in Astoria in 1864; their first church was built in 1867. The current church building dates from 1886, and is the oldest continuously operating church in Astoria. The well-preserved Gothic Revival style church stands out as one of the most architecturally significant among nine other historic churches in the neighborhood. The National Register nomination from 1984 indicates that the design was created by noted regional architect Carl Leick with building supervision by another important local architect, James Ferguson. Carl Leick is best known for his design of the Captain George Flavel House (1885) and a number of the most notable lighthouses along the Oregon and Washington coast.

The Gothic Revival style in the US was borrowed from the medieval cathedrals of Western Europe, and was very popular in American churches in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The primary identifier of the Gothic Revival style is the repetition of the pointed arch motif seen in doors, windows and decorative detail on the exterior and interior



surfaces. The Gothic Revival influence of Grace Episcopal Church is seen in the steeply pitched roof and decorative finials atop the towering belfry. The Gothic motif is also seen in the interior with the soaring hammer beams and continuation of the pointed arch forms. Like many other 19th century Episcopal churches in America, Grace Episcopal has wooden structural and decorative elements that show the influence of the British Arts and Crafts Movement. The use of board and batten siding, applied half-timber detail and wide vergeboard create the rustic look of an English country church. A couple of traditional elements are the modified cruciform footprint and the circular rose window on the facade. The long, formal stairway entry was created when the church building was raised in 1891 to create an undercroft with a religious education area and kitchen for parish gatherings.



Rectory Building

The National Register nomination mentions the Episcopal Rectory (1916) located just to the east of the church designed by local architect A D Gendron. The rectory also shows some distinctive Arts and Crafts elements which complement the appearance of the church. A modestly designed single-story Parish Hall (1955) attached to the west side of the church is described as 'non-compatible' but not visible enough to be considered intrusive. Historic church buildings are an important aspect of the built environment in Astoria. When you are out on your post-feast holiday walk this season, stroll by any one of our elegant historic churches and don't forget to look up!

Contact the Architect Hound: ericwheeler2@gmail.com

2nd Annual CHRISTMAS TROLLEY ADVENTURE Holiday Market at the Barbey Maritime Center and PIER 39 Festivities

ASTORIA UPPERTOWN Business Association is thrilled to announce the return of the city's 2nd Annual Christmas Trolley, Storytime, and Holiday Market event on **December 16 and 17**. The festivities will take place from 1pm to 7pm each day, promising a magical experience for visitors of all ages.

This two-day celebration will feature a whimsical trolley ride through the heart of Uppertown Astoria. Tickets are priced at \$10 for adults, \$8 for kids, with free rides for children 3 and under. Military and seniors also enjoy discounted rates.

Secure your tickets, Trolley Schedule and discover more details at Astoriachristmastrolley.com.

The highlight of the event is the Storytime Theater, where Erin Lehn, The Joy Warrior, will perform her new Christmas single and read "Night Before Christmas" with the Merymakers SFX crew.

Attendees will enjoy hot cocoa, popcorn, cookies, and explore the holiday market at The Barbey Maritime Center, featuring 17 artisans, musical acts, Face Painting and a Craft Corner sponsored by Columbia River Maritime Museum's education department.

Pier 39 will be transformed into The North Pole, offering various photo opportuni-

ties. Capture memories with photos alongside Rudolph, Frosty, and the wandering Grinch.

Food makers and businesses serving delicious dishes to enjoy at the market under the festive tent or shelf-stable offerings to buy and take home.

Both The Barbey Center and Pier 39 spaces and activities are free, and the Bart the Cart, an 8-passenger golf cart, will be available from 4pm to 7pm for those needing assistance over the Pier 39 bridge.

STORYTIME THEATER at Pier 39 Event Space 1:30-6:30pm: Interactive musical sing-along. Approximate show times are: 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45, 4:30, 5:15, 6:00 last show.

Enjoy the festivities at your own pace; the last trolley back to the Barbey Center leaves Pier 39 approximately 7 PM, with the pier remaining open until 10 PM.

This enchanting event is brought to you by the Astoria Uppertown Business Association. Approximately 630 tickets are available, so don't miss your chance to be part of this festive tradition.



Joy Warrior and Songster Erin Lehn



HOLIDAY TEA at the Rosebriar

SIP ON AROMATIC TEAS, indulge in scrumptious pastries (including gingerbread!), and revel in the festive ambiance. This in-person event is the perfect opportunity to gather with friends and family, celebrating the holiday season.

Tea service includes your choice of seasonal specialty tea, soup course, pastries and tea cake. This is your chance to tour this gorgeous historic property, decorated in seasonal finery, that was built in 1902 and has been used as a convent (complete with chapel where tea will be served).

Enjoy a live music concert by renowned North Coast guitarist David Drury from 2-3 pm. Sunday December 10, 1-4pm. Don't miss out on an enchanting afternoon at the Rosebriar Mansion, one of the most beautiful historic homes in Astoria. Hats and festive attire welcome. Make your reservation at holidaytearosebriar.eventbrite.com





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