

A photograph of a Christmas tree decorated with lights, ornaments, and garlands. The tree is the central focus, set against a dark background. The lights are warm white, and the ornaments include red, gold, and silver. Two wrapped gifts are visible at the top of the tree. The overall mood is festive and celebratory.

# 3550

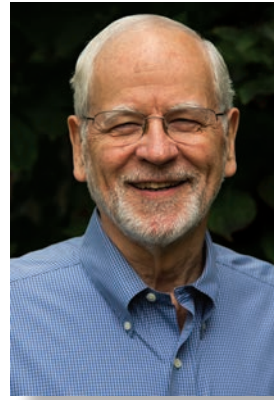
**December 2016**

a publication by and for the residents of Mirabella Portland



**Nancy Moss**

*Deputy Editor*



**Fred Morris**

*President*

**M**irabella offers us both independent living and a sense of community. Sometimes the bonds of communal living can fray — when another resident books the town car at the time we wanted, for instance, or takes the last piece of key lime pie. Conversation in shared spaces can become absurd; I have heard myself asking someone, “Going outside?” when she is wearing a hat and coat in the elevator. All of us have probably wished someone a cheerful good-morning when we didn’t feel particularly cheerful. In spite of spirited water volleyball games, evening concerts, the pleasant click of mah jongg tiles, the satisfaction of settling into one of our library’s comfortable chairs to read the wafer-thin *Oregonian*, communal living has its downside.

A disaster like an earthquake can deepen our sense of community. Experience with catastrophes tells us that 95–98% of people rescued are helped by their neighbors, since professionals such as firemen or the police are generally occupied elsewhere. “Community resilience” is the key to surviving a disaster, says Jeremy Van Keuren, program coordinator, Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET). The more tightly knit a group the better.

Mirabella doctors have been planning supplies and forming groups to help residents injured in a quake. Some of us are taking NET training, hoping to assist the professionals.

Our first NET session featured a video with a staged emergency using actors. Four helmeted and vested NET veterans carefully carried an ‘injured’ volunteer to a first aid station, where he could be triaged and helped.

Of course, all of us hope not to have to use these new skills. For more cheerful community building, take Nick Cowell’s quiz, included in this issue, and learn more about fellow residents. ☘

**W**hat is RAMP? The question comes from visitors and new residents: RAMP is the Resident Association of Mirabella Portland, dedicated to enhancing our quality of life. How does it do this? It provides the opportunity for and encouragement to participate in matters that affect our concerns, interests and wellbeing.

It strives to build and foster a sense of community. It promotes effective communications and understanding among residents, staff, Administration, Mirabella Portland’s Board of Directors, and appropriate neighborhood organizations, and it advocates for us to the Administration, Board of Directors and Foundation Board.

Who is responsible for RAMP’s success? Here is the bad news. To paraphrase the Pogo comic strip: “We have met the one responsible and he is us.” We are the volunteers who carry out this mission. We build that sense of community by being good neighbors, by bringing new residents into the community and into our circle of friends and by looking out for each other through health concerns, fire and earthquake. We share and create social opportunities, cultural events and entertainment. We participate in committee meetings to let others know what is going well, what is not, and where to focus our efforts to improve.

We communicate with residents, management, and the neighborhood with our suggestions and concerns. We keep informed by reading our superb publications, by attending council and association meetings, and by attending management updates like coffee socials and town halls. When needed, we advocate strongly for changes, and we also listen with an open mind to the reasons for roadblocks and delays, and work at understanding when the answer needs to be “no.”

Feedback regarding our priorities from the Quality of Life survey and the ad hoc Governance Committee survey’s open-ended questions suggests that our two biggest concerns are financial and a collection of facilities/management issues. Therefore, as we address our total mission, we will focus on these two RAMP priorities this year. This is our home. Let’s keep making Mirabella better. ☘



**Front cover and at left:** Toni Tidman holds her magic tree. Photos by Bob French.

**Back cover:** A long camera exposure creates streaks of light as vehicles cross the Willamette River on Interstate 5 Marquam Bridge during an early evening commute. The photo by Robert French, taken at the top of the OHSU tram station, shows traffic moving in the respective north- and southbound lanes. Red lights are northbound, while white lights move south.

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3550 MAGAZINE  
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 PORTLAND, OR 97239-4729

# Residents Influence Mirabella Budget

by Ed Parker

Mirabella residents *can* influence the size of Mirabella fee increases. Peter Fenner and Fred Morris showed the way.

The draft version of the 2016-2017 budget presented to the Finance Advisory Committee called for a 5 percent increase in fees for independent living residents. The increase was reduced to 4½ percent in the final budget approved by the Mirabella Portland and Pacific Retirement Services (PRS) boards.

What happened?

Resident Jim Rudolph, who was at the advisory meeting, said it appeared that the 5 percent increase appeared to be “a done deal.” Jim said Peter Fenner, president of the Residents Association of Mirabella Portland (RAMP) until his untimely death in September, was a consistent advocate for keeping fees low for residents.

Peter, supported by current RAMP president Fred Morris, argued that more than 30 percent of residents responding to a RAMP survey reported being worried about the ability of residents to continue to pay fees that were increasing at a rate much higher than the rate of inflation, especially when current earnings on their retirement savings were so low.

Peter questioned many of the cost items in the budget, looking for any possible way to reduce costs. PRS management representatives Anthony Sabatini and Sharon McCartney understandably resisted cost cutting measures that might reduce the quantity and quality of services Mirabella residents have come to expect.

All involved were grappling with a tough fiscal year.

A sizeable fee increase was needed this year to pay the higher wage costs resulting from Oregon’s recent increase in the legal minimum wage.

If only minimum wage employees got raises without higher paid employees also getting higher pay, the resulting “wage compression” would make it harder to retain or recruit employees for those higher

Fred concerning how to handle the wage compression issue.

In the 5 percent version, Mirabella management calculated raises for higher paid employees as percentage increases similar to the percentage increases of lower paid employees.

In the 4½ percent final budget version, management provided raises for higher paid employees as dollar amounts individually calculated to be appropriate for each position, rather than an automatic percentage increase.

The differences between higher and lower paid employees may still be similar in dollar amounts even though the percentage increase for higher paid employees is less than the percentage increase for lower paid employees.

A 4½ percent increase is still a big one for residents whose retirement funds don’t grow at a comparable rate. Will this be the end of the big annual increases?

No. That would take a miracle that is unlikely to happen. A more likely way to help residents who fear they will outlive their retirement funds will be to collect significant donations to the Mirabella Foundation’s Resident Assistance Fund.

Mirabella Portland, like its parent company PRS, is a non-profit corporation that does not need to generate profits for its owners. However, to stay in business, non-profit organizations need to charge fees high enough to cover their costs.

Mirabella budgets, like family budgets, need to generate enough revenue to cover the costs of the dining, transportation, health care and other services we use, paying off

*Mirabella hasn't yet reached the break-even point where revenues cover all expenses*

paid positions. People previously given merit raises or promoted to supervisory positions don’t like being “demoted” back to wages close to the new minimum.

Portland’s other PRS community, Holladay Park Plaza, facing the same minimum wage pressure, raised fees 5½ percent. Mirabella Seattle, facing an immediate increase to a \$15 minimum wage instead of Portland’s phased increase to \$14.75, raised fees 6 percent.

Sharon, Mirabella Portland’s assistant executive director since Anthony’s promotion to PRS vice president, told 3550 the main reason for the change from a 5 percent to a 4½ percent increase resulted from accepting arguments by Peter and

debts (including the mortgage on the building) and putting enough money into savings to cover both anticipated and unexpected future expenses.

Mirabella hasn't yet reached the break-even point where revenues cover all the expenses.

The budget has two major components: the operating budget, including salaries and expenses, and the financing budget, including investments, debts and mortgage payments.

The good news is that, excluding financing, the 2016-2017 budget projects costs that are 82 percent of revenues.

The not so good news is that, including financing, the budget projects total costs that are 103 percent of revenues.

In other words, total costs are 3 percent higher than revenues. Some of the expenses are non-cash expenses, like building depreciation. Therefore, despite the loss, the budget projects that cash reserves will increase slightly during the year.

Mirabella began operations with a backlog of start-up costs before the first residents moved in and started paying fees. It had construction loans and other debts to repay and no savings to cover unexpected expenses. Since then it has had a series of unexpected events that reduced revenue or increased costs.

The first financial shock to Mirabella was the crash of the housing market just as the building was opening. Many prospective residents couldn't sell their homes and couldn't afford to move in. A

supposedly fully sold building had empty apartments that were not generating entrance fees or monthly revenue. Mirabella survived that hurdle by lowering entrance fees so that the building eventually filled up, but with revenues below projections. The difference was made up by borrowing money from PRS.



**Peter Fenner, 2015-16 RAMP president, advocated keeping fees low for Mirabella residents.**

Another major budget shock was the state bed tax for health care facilities, a significant factor in prior year fee increases.

The increase in the minimum wage is the most recent factor causing monthly fees to go up. The first installment of that was the leading cause of the latest fee increase. Because the minimum wage increase is being phased in over a period of seven years we are

not done yet. Future budgets will have to keep pace with the phasing in of the rising minimum wage.

Mirabella also has debts to repay, in addition to the mortgage on the building.

Mirabella owes PRS \$11,231,436 to repay loans and deferred management fees dating from the building start-up. PRS is charging no interest and does not require repayment unless Mirabella has financial reserves sufficient to cover 365 days of operations, which is projected to happen by the end of the current fiscal year.

Perhaps in another few years, after the PRS debt is paid, the costs of the minimum wage increases are phased in and Mirabella revenues are sufficient to cover all expenses, we may see lower annual fee increases.

But don't count on it. The past has proven that the only certainty about budgets is that something unexpected is likely to get in the way of the best laid plans.

Still, the resulting budgets may be more accepted by residents if there is more resident input to the process. The question is how best to provide that input.

Mirabella has traditionally asked residents for suggestions prior to creating each new budget. Requests made by individual residents are not focused and are easy to ignore.

Sharon suggested that RAMP committees review resident budget requests to give Mirabella management collective rather than individual budget recommendations.

RAMP could follow the path blazed by Peter and Fred to give residents greater influence in the Mirabella budget process by implementing that suggestion. ❀

# Zidell Ends Barge Construction



by Steve Casey

We are losing our front row seat.

While it has been a source of enjoyment for Mirabella residents and others in the South Waterfront for years, a living link to Portland's maritime past and proof that Americans can still build things, Zidell Marine soon will shut down barge construction and ready the 33-acre riverfront property for long-anticipated development.

It's a piece of history gone and a future being shaped.

When Zidell started building barges here in 1960, the South Waterfront was a far different place. No hospital buildings. No condos. No parks. Just heavy industry along the river.

"There are a few of us oldsters who grew up here, who constantly went by all the old saw mills, the B.P. John Co. and Zidell, on the rattletrap bus that went to our neighborhood," remembers Cornie Stevens. "In those days we could have gone on a stroll right through all the machinery. It was wide open with no safety fences that I remember."

The area changed but the allure remained.

"I have enjoyed very much being able to observe heavy industry from close up," notes resident Bob Ridgley. "In a way, having grown up in a GE family where my dad and brother both were involved in making things like railroad engines, turbines and missile nose cones, it has been fun to live in a neighborhood where such activities are still acceptable."

Billy Cook said she has always enjoyed looking at nature, but Zidell at work showed her that "manufacturing is also a joy to watch."

Some demur.

"When choosing an apartment five years ago, I ruled out the north-facing units despite the night views, because Zidell's industrial foreground was so dominant," says Bev Healy.

Zidell's closure announcement in September shocked its workforce and was déjà vu for Bill Gobel and Tony Hoppe.

Bill, who is Zidell's vice president and barge boss, and Tony, the barge yard's general superintendent, had been through a shutdown before – in the mid-1980s – then saw construction resume in 1990.

The first plant closing was driven by a lack of adequate equipment, according to Bill. This time, it's

driven by economic development of Zidell's choice site, and by an evolution of the barge market that has left the company in its wake.

"I think right now the (barge) market is still pretty good," Bill said in a recent interview. "The problem with us is size – most of the stuff being built today is beyond our capacity."

"The industry has changed a lot over the years. It used to be that tugboats had x-horsepower, and the barges were of a certain size. Then the tugs got more horsepower and the barges kept growing."

Zidell's last barge, in progress for months, is due to launch in the second or third quarter of 2017, he said. It is being built by Zidell Marine for West Coast Barges, a Zidell company.

Similar to the barge called the Robert Bell, the as-yet unnamed vessel is a 422-foot, 80,000-barrel petroleum barge with an integrated notch at the stern so that it's pushed, more than towed.

"We're not out of the *barge* business," Bill notes. "We're out of the *barge-building* business." The company has a dozen barges under lease, and Bill will continue to run that operation.

But there is a trace of melancholy in his voice.

“We’ve built what we think is good quality,” says Bill. “We seem to put a little more heart into it than some people do. We’re pretty proud of what we do.”

Exactly what lies ahead is not known, but we have seen the broad outline of what Zidell plans on its property and what OHSU is planning to the north.

“I’m certain that there will be a massive construction process leading to a denser situation for all of us,” notes resident Ardyth Shapiro.

Indeed, construction – not only on Zidell property, but throughout the immediate area – could last a couple decades, say some of those involved.

Matt French, who directs Zidell’s real estate operation, declined to comment until the master plan is completed early next year.

That plan should resolve:

- ♦ the mix of residential, commercial and other uses;
- ♦ the exact scope of affordable housing;
- ♦ what will be included in each phase of construction.

Early plans call for the blue barge building to be “repurposed” and incorporated into the development.

According to website [bikeportland.org](http://bikeportland.org), the timeline for extending the Greenway through Zidell property has not – as yet – changed. The website said it is listed in the agreement between the city and Zidell as a “phase 3” development, meaning the years

2025-2035. Master planning and subsequent agreement could speed that, however.

Some development originally planned to start soon has been “put on the back burner, while the whole area is master planned,” according to one source.

The anticipated development is expected to enhance the so-called Innovation Quadrant, an incubator for advances particularly in health care.

OHSU developments – the Hoffman Construction projects opposite Mirabella as well as the Knight Cancer Center farther north – contributed to Zidell accelerating its development timetable. The lure of those choice 33 acres has attracted developers, venture capital firms and others from around the country.

The project is expected to include spaces for parks and perhaps for art and artists.

*South Waterfront resident Jim Luke contributed to this report. Photos by Robert French. §*





Photo by Ron Mendonça

**Judge Joseph F. Cenicerros**



*by Steve Casey*

It was nearing the end of a grueling murder trial and Judge Joseph F. Cenicerros had a problem.

After an exhausting jury selection, 12 good men and women finally were seated. The trial proceeded, the case was submitted and the jury had begun its deliberations.

Enter the bailiff, who told Judge Cenicerros one of the female jurors wanted to talk to him.

“Well, tell her I can’t *do* that,” the

“I’m here because I have a disease that’ll kill me,” he said in a recent interview.

“It’s called Alzheimer’s.”

And Joe is meeting that disease with the same determination and creativity he brought to problems on the bench. To start with, he has been very open about his disease, notes his wife, Charyl Cathey, who joined him in the interview.

He was diagnosed in late 2011, and “that was the impetus for our quick move to Mirabella,” Charyl says. “He’s been part of clinical trials

His has been an unlikely life for a Latino boy who didn’t speak English until he entered first grade. That late start, though, may explain why today he’s fully bilingual, speaking Spanish without a *norteamericano* accent.

“All my mother’s family was Hispanic,” Joe told 3550.

“My grandfather was Felipe Cenicerros, the vice consul of Mexico in the U.S. My mother’s family was well off – they had several ranches in the Rio Grande Valley. My grandfather lost 1,000 acres in northern Mexico, stolen by Pancho Villa and that band.”

Born in Tucson, Ariz., Joe spent most of his childhood in Harlingen, Tex., the heart of the Rio Grande Valley, and in San Antonio, where he completed school.

After service in the U.S. Army tank corps, Joe went to Georgetown University, worked at the Library of Congress, and earned a law degree. While in law school he married for the first time, and on graduation day became the father of twins. Those babies, now grown and living the Portland area, are John Cenicerros and Maria Masson.

After law school, he moved west to become law clerk to fellow Georgetown graduate Hall Stoner Lusk, a storied justice on the Oregon Supreme Court.

Joe served two years with the Multnomah County DA’s office, then opened a general law practice.

With 10 years as a lawyer, Joe was appointed a district court judge by then-Gov. Robert W. Straub in 1977. In 1992 he was elevated to the circuit court.

He’s heard both civil and criminal cases, some attracting notoriety – like the ACLU’s suit against Portland Public Schools for allowing the Boy Scouts to recruit on campus, although Boy Scout policies exclude

## Resident Profile: Joseph F. Cenicerros Quiet Courage

judge said. “She is adamant,” the bailiff responded.

Now, a judge doesn’t simply sit down with a juror for a little chat. It requires assembling the lawyers, bringing in a court reporter, making sure it’s all on the record. The juror didn’t like the way one of the men was treating her.

With visions of having to re-do a long and contentious murder case if he could not get the jury working together, Judge Cenicerros decided to “call the whole jury in, don’t talk about the facts, just teach them a little about manners.” He told them if they didn’t play nice he would have to declare a mistrial and start the case all over again.

Harmony prevailed and soon the panel returned a verdict.

In such cases over 23 years on the bench, Judge Joseph Cenicerros earned a reputation as a collegial problem-solver, respected by attorneys and adored by jurors.

\* \* \*

Today, five-year Mirabella resident Joe Cenicerros has a problem.

since, and still is. Which, I think, has kept him doing as well as he is.”

While working, he was physically active and a civic contributor; neither retirement nor illness has changed that.

A leader in the legal community, he also served as president of the Morrison Center, a Portland social services agency. He was a dedicated runner and hiked the Pacific Coast Trail and three times trekked the 500-mile Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

He and Charyl, who herself once walked a marathon, have hiked across England, coast to coast.

Hiking continues, as does service to others. In September, they hiked in Grand Teton National Park. Each year they spend a week building latrines in poor villages in Nicaragua, and at home Joe works with the Oregon Food Bank and gleans – receiving edible excess food from restaurants and stores, and giving it to agencies serving the poor.

\* \* \*

*(see Cenicerros p. 10)*

(from *Ceniceros* p. 9)

atheists. Joe ruled in favor of the schools; the 10-year case and appeal was finally resolved when he was upheld by the Oregon Supreme Court in 2006.

As a trial lawyer, Mirabella resident Jim Spiekerman tried two civil cases before Joe.

“He was a hell of a nice guy and a good judge,” Jim says.

not guilty. That’s your responsibility; intellectually honest but emotionally difficult.”

Hardest for him were child sexual abuse cases, watching kids get put through the wringer on the witness stand.

“I remember grabbing my hands (as I listened to the evidence), and the jurors all would rather have been anywhere.”

Even off the bench he could have an impact.

“Once I was doing a wedding

But the wedding party angrily tore into the groom, threatening him if he did not behave. The union went off without further incident, under Joe’s hard stare.

“About a year and a half later, I’m walking down the street and come across this guy. There’s not even time for me to get to the other side of the street. He stopped me and asked if I remembered him.”

And then he thanked Joe.

“He said ‘that was the best thing you’ve ever done. I’ve not touched a single drop since that day.’ You never know.”

Mandatory sentencing came to Oregon, influencing Joe to leave the bench.

As he sees it, it took away virtually all judicial discretion; no longer could judges tailor an individual sentence. He retired in 2000, although he was named a senior judge and for several years took cases throughout the state on assignment.

Joe and Charyl met on a blind date in 1991 and were married in 1994. She brought her own three children to the marriage – Michele, Andrew and Rebecca. While living in Colorado, Charyl attended an event in Portland, loved it, and with a divorce thought a change of scene would be good. She was head of the Oregon Episcopal School’s middle school for 25 years until retirement.

Their days at Mirabella are often filled with grandchildren and their activities, and Joe and Charyl regularly visit their beach home at Cape Meares, a headland five miles northwest of Tillamook. “We love the combination,” Joe observes.

Wherever they go together, you are almost certain to see smiles lighting up their faces. ☼



**Joseph Cenicerros and Charyl Cathey**

“Some of the cases I heard stayed with me,” Joe said in the interview. “(I wondered) did I do the right thing? But never in a criminal case. *Never* in a criminal case. If the state did not prove it, I had to find the guy

out in a park,” he recalled, “and the groom comes up and he is drunk as a skunk. Stinking drunk. Making scenes. I talked to the bride and I’m about to say ‘I’m not doing this.’ I said I was about to have his ass thrown in jail.”

# Paul Knoll Book Published

by Nancy Moss

Paul Knoll's new book, "A Pearl of Powerful Learning: The University of Cracow in the Fifteenth Century," tells the complex history of an institution founded in 1364 and implicitly criticizes many historians' view of Europe.

"The 19<sup>th</sup>-century view of European civilization was wrong," Paul says, in "focusing on the Romans and Teutonic peoples;" it is "much more complex than that. . . The Slavonic peoples need to be figured into the story of what Europe's all about."

Driven by his private passion, a historian's fascination with old documents and what seems a slow-burning but powerful curiosity, Paul explored the role of the university where Copernicus studied long ago, in relationship to the city of Cracow and to the Polish state.

Paul's research encompasses both the mighty, like the king who founded the university, and the mundane. He describes letters from 15<sup>th</sup>-century students assuring their parents that they were doing well, studying hard; letters from their parents asking why the students were not attending classes but were strumming on their guitars instead; and letters from the students pleading for money. Those, Paul said, did not make it into his book.

Universities are a medieval

creation, Paul explains; they did not exist in Greece or Rome.

"Institutions that transmit and transmit knowledge are a European

taught and served three stints as history department head, would be far different and might not even exist without forerunners like the University of Cracow.

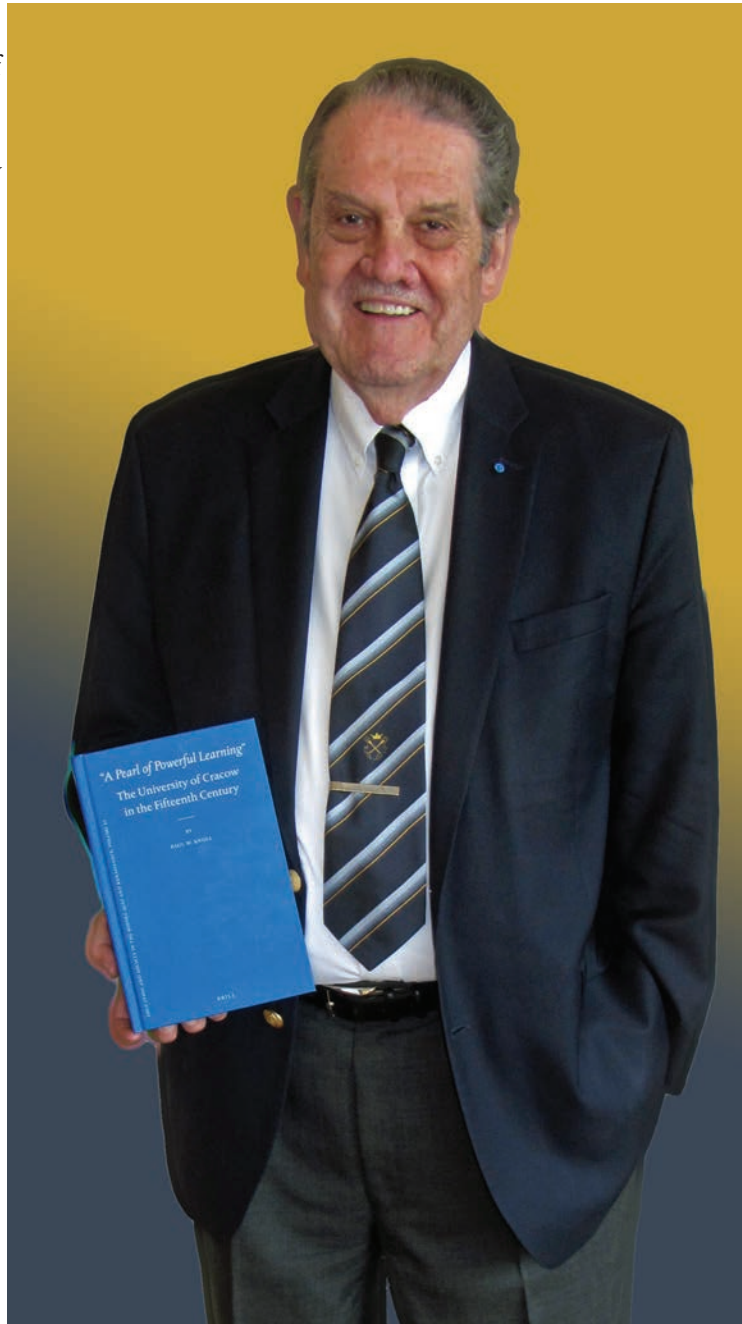
Paul started this present book, a product of "pure scholarly motivation," after his retirement in 2011 from USC and continued working on it while at Mirabella. He sent it to the Netherlands' Brill Press, the "oldest continuous publisher of scholarly work in Europe," in 2015.

He is proud that his son David, a cartographer, did the maps in the book.

Paul's book is intended for university libraries and research centers, for "people interested in university history, Polish history, people interested in European late medieval culture and intellectual history." ("Late medieval" refers to the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, Paul explains.)

Paul's previous publications include, in addition to his 1972 "Rise of the Polish Monarchy," a translation of a 12<sup>th</sup>-century Latin chronicle that is the first history of Poland, 30 articles, and 150 scholarly reviews — "the broad range of writing that academics do," he points out.

Future scholars toiling away in libraries can use Paul's work to unlock Poland's complex past and, perhaps, better understand its present. ❀



Paul's tie bears the heraldic arms of the University of Cracow; his rosette pin was awarded by the President of Poland in 2000. Photo by Curtis Guthrie.

tradition," Paul points out.

His own University of Southern California (USC), where Paul

# Who Are They?

A Quiz by Nick Cowell

The names of 26 Mirabella residents and staff are listed by number on the left side below. Match each name with the attribute or description on the right side that best fits or describes that person. Put the matching letter on the line after that person's name. The first one has been done for you. Use each letter only once. (Answers on a different page.)

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Phoebe Beeman <u>S</u>   | A Might take a photo of a great meal                    |
| 2 Perry Walker ____        | B Knows all about money                                 |
| 3 Hugh Kerr ____           | C Honcho of COD   |
| 4 Victoria Michalchuk ____ | D Sees a ship and needs to paint it                     |
| 5 Aaron Lange ____         | E First President of RAMP                               |
| 6 Anne Clark ____          | F Can fix almost anything                               |
| 7 Adrienne Casey ____      | G Helps you relax with a good book                      |
| 8 Adam Hampton ____        | H Came to us from the south                             |
| 9 Frank Parker ____        | I While on a police force posed as a prostitute         |
| 10 Bruce Howard ____       | J Once a lawyer in Central Asia                         |
| 11 Toni Tidman ____        | K Had stars on the shoulders                            |
| 12 Bob Cramer ____         | L Server who burst into song                            |
| 13 Rick Thompson ____      | M Tied for longest resident in Mirabella                |
| 14 Sivia Kaye ____         | N Sometimes wears a necktie at work                     |
| 15 Bill Stevens ____       | O Keeps Mirabella decorated                             |
| 16 Hebe Greizerstein ____  | P Keeps us amused in Musings                            |
| 17 Sharon McCartney ____   | Q Doctor who walks to work                              |
| 18 Muriel Mendonca ____    | R Paddles on the Grand Canal in Venice                  |
| 19 Bob Ivey ____           | S Four legged friend of Charlotte Beeman                |
| 20 Susan MacKinnon ____    | T Super taker of minutes                                |
| 21 Duc Tran ____           | U Loves you and knows how to tell you                   |
| 22 Elizabeth Haling ____   | V Helps you get where you need to go                    |
| 23 Claire Weber ____       | W Member of 8 <sup>th</sup> grade jumprope team on ESPN |
| 24 Ardyth Shapiro ____     | X Artistic Scientist                                    |
| 25 Linda McCammon ____     | Y Can make almost anything wooden                       |
| 26 Todd Albert ____        | Z Speaks five languages                                 |



## Filling a Need – Charity



Isabel Prucha (second from left) serves food for Mirabella’s holiday charity, the social services program under Saint Michael the Archangel, which feeds the homeless. The charity needs money for food and small toiletry items. Photo by Paul Davis.

## ZGF Named Top Firm

ZGF Architects, the firm that designed the guest house and parking structure being built across Curry Street from Mirabella, has been named the top firm in the nation by one of American architecture’s most prominent publications.

Architect, the journal of the American Institute of Architects, ranked ZGF as the best in the country, judged on “design innovation, business acumen and leading-edge sustainability.” It also placed first in the nation in the sustainability rankings.

The award was announced in September.

ZGF designed the South Waterfront medical building for Oregon Health & Science University. That is being built by Hoffman Construction Co. with an expected completion date of June 2018.

In making the award, the publication said “ZGF has a knack for designing super-efficient buildings that don’t skimp on aesthetics. Its design for a future expansion of Nike’s world headquarters in Oregon is as kinetic as a runner in motion, while a new cancer center at the University of Arizona echoes its desert surroundings with walls clad in coppery metal sunscreens.”

The magazine did not mention the whimsical birds-in-flight design on the sides of the OHSU parking structure. ☼



**Mila loussifova, OD**  
Doctor of Optometry

- Comprehensive Eye Health Exams
- Contact Lens Services RGP, Specialty and Custom Contact Lenses
- Dry Eye Treatment and Management
- Ocular Disease Diagnosis and Management
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by Claire Weber

Asked where she is from, Mirabella concierge Mekedes Asegdom answers “Seattle” with a cheery smile; she has relocated to Portland to live on her own and prepare for graduate school.

To avoid the war with Somalia, Mekedes’ parents moved from Ethiopia to Sudan, but her father knew he wanted eventually to settle the family safely in the West. He applied for admission to the United States through the Diversity Immigrant program, which provides up to 50,000 immigrant visas for people from countries that have low rates of immigration to the U. S.

Only a few of the millions of people applying for visas are chosen for further vetting; Mekedes’ father won the ‘Green Card Lottery’ and was successful at his resulting interview. With help from an American church, he moved to the U.S. in 1991, worked as a painter and saved enough to send for his wife and daughter within a year.

Born soon after her mother joined her father in Seattle, Mekedes says, “It never ceases to amaze me” how hard her parents worked to help their children succeed. They worked as custodians on rotating shifts so one of them was always home with the children.

Although they came to America to give their children a better life, Mekedes’ parents spoke Amharic and Tigrinya at home so their children would retain their connection with Ethiopia.

Dentistry has always fascinated Mekedes. At ten years of age, intrigued by the idea that teeth could be moved and straightened by braces, she decided to put theory into practice. At bedtime she took some small rubber bands off her hair and put them on her teeth to try to move them, to see how the theory of braces worked.

This creative experiment was destined to fail. The second night, Mekedes’ father asked, “What is that in your mouth?” Mekedes explained, and her mom said, “You can’t do that.”

The project came to an end.

Mekedes retained her interest in orthodontia, however; at the dentist

she would try to replicate an under bite because she “wanted to have braces,” even if she didn’t need them.

Although the science of dentistry fascinates Mekedes, she wants a career as a dentist in order to help people, particularly those who cannot afford regular dental care. She has personally seen how low income people can develop serious damage to their teeth. Instead of a root canal, Mekedes’ personal circumstances required her to have a tooth extracted.

A *Washington Post* story about a 12-year-old boy who died because of

an unintended bacterial abscess particularly moved her. Mekedes wants to specialize in orthodontia because it’s “helping someone and giving back.” Orthodontia, she says, “saves lives.”

Asked about her favorite team, Mekedes, who played softball in high school, replies, “the Mariners, of course.”

After completing college at St. Martins in Washington, Mekedes moved to Portland to be on her own. Needing a job with flexible hours, she likes both the location and hours of Mirabella. Earlier volunteer work at a retirement home makes her comfortable with Mirabella.

Mekedes’ parents are proud of their daughter’s success, but her

## Staff Profile: Mekedes Asegdom, Pride in Family

mother would like her to find a guy, ideally to bring one home for Christmas. Mekedes laughs at that and instead focuses on what she wants to do with her life.

Realizing that achieving her goals will be difficult, Mekedes remembers what her father says about difficulty: “Never stress – always give it your best.” She expects to continue working hard.

As she puts it, “When you have parents like mine, why not try hard?” ❀

Photo by Ron Mendonça



**Mekedes Asegdom**

# Holiday Tales

## The Christmas Ham

by *Sybilla A. Cook*

It was our first married Christmas. A few weeks before, we had confirmed a new baby was on the way. That meant I would have to quit my teaching job after Christmas: “We can’t have pregnant teachers in the schools—it might give children ideas.” So instead of being a two-income family for two people, we were now going to have one salary support three people.

But Christmas to both of us meant celebrating no matter what. John’s German family always gathered on Christmas Eve; it was a given that we go to his parents’ house that night. My family celebrated on Christmas Day, so we invited his parents and brother to come out and have Christmas dinner with us. His mother was a fabulous cook. I was still unsure of my cooking skills; I wanted something foolproof.

It was hard to decide on a main dish. My family always had roast beef for Christmas, but that wasn’t affordable. John’s family would have turkey. Then I saw the nearby store had canned hams on sale. Each was five pounds, enough to serve five people with some leftovers. I went out and bought one. Baked yams, frozen peas, canned pineapple, ice cream and brownies were easy and made up the rest of the menu.

It all worked and the meal went well. Once we told them about the coming grandchild, I realized I needn’t have worried. If we had told them before dinner they wouldn’t even have cared what they ate. It was a happy afternoon.

However, when they left, I realized that five pounds of boneless ham had no waste. It gave us

about four pound of leftovers that I couldn’t throw it out. We had ham the next day...and the next. I put it in a casserole, ground it up into little balls, and served it in white sauce like I did chipped beef. It lasted. And lasted.

Just before New Years some friends called and invited us to their house for dinner. John and I looked at each other with glee. We could get away for a day from our daily menu. We looked forward to it all week.

You guessed it. What did they serve? Canned ham. ❀

daughters written in my mother’s handwriting.

My mother, a very generous and loving person, would have loved to give everyone in her family an expensive gift, but that year had been an especially difficult one for her financially. She wanted to have a gift under the tree for each of her then 17 grandchildren (later that number grew to 24). She had carefully selected and purchased a 10-cent comic book for each child. When we all arrived for Christmas dinner, they were wrapped and



## A Priceless 10-Cent Gift

by *Arletha Ryan*

A short time ago, sorting through some old boxes in storage, I came across one containing toys. In it I found two comic books. One was “Casper the Friendly Ghost”, the other “Archie and His Friends” (Betty, Veronica and Jughead). They were 1965 or 1966 vintage price 10 cents each. At the top of each comic book was the name of one of my two

under the tree.

Imagine the delight of my now 50-something daughters when they were reunited with these treasures. They knew that the comic book had been selected just for them and given in love. What other 10-cent gift could span the years and bring such pleasure and memories – and also appreciate in value? ❀



## Thanksgiving in Westport

*by Jane Wachslar*

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. I love the food and the family togetherness.

The year after my mother passed away, I decided to make the holiday as much fun and as much work as possible, so I invited 35 guests to add to my festive table. I thought, if you can put the whole traditional dinner together for six, it wouldn't be much more work to put it together for 41.

WRONG.

Not having an industrial kitchen with ovens, I asked some of my neighbors who were going elsewhere if I could use theirs.

People were more than gracious. The big day approached, and as I readied myself to deposit the various turkeys around my neighborhood, a huge wind storm arrived in Westport, Connecticut.

Westport is a beautiful New England town with colonial houses and lush trees. It also has power lines above ground.

About 8:30 Thanksgiving morning a large tree in our neighborhood fell across a street and took with it all the wires that supplied electricity to my beautiful neighborhood.

I called up my B list and drove four turkeys across town to be cooked in semi-friends' ovens.

My guests arrived about six and we sat down to dinner.

Dessert was waiting for us in the kitchen on a large round table. Everyone was going to come in and take what they wanted buffet style.

I lived in a traditional two-story house, and above the kitchen was the children's bathroom.

With the bathrooms getting more than usual use, somehow the pipes to the toilet said they had had enough so that when the toilet was flushed water leaked to my kitchen fixture and came gushing down, landing on the various desserts.

Fortunately, my helper and I were the only ones who saw it. We took a lot of paper towels and wiped off the desserts.

Julia Child dropped a chicken once on her TV show and, unfazed, said to the audience, "Just pick up the chicken."

I did likewise. ❀

## Bikers' Wrath

*by Roy Abrahamson*

On the Greenway I beg, I plead  
My aged form they do not heed  
I try anger, an obscene name,  
Threats, hard looks – result's the  
same  
They'll pedal laughingly

Moody West-bike path's a honey  
Built for all with our tax money  
Markers, signs, surface a green hue  
A special lane for non-bikers, too  
They'll pedal safely

Moody East side's for joggers, pets,  
Wee tots in strollers, limping vets,  
Students, tourists, and tram riders.  
Bikers are banned as outsiders  
They'll pedal indifferently

For autos, bikers were fair game  
Perhaps they see us as the same  
Our protests are only feeble jokes  
They speed by us with gleaming  
spokes  
They'll pedal haughtily  
So let's protest and get big press,  
TV, Internet, the whole mess  
We'll steal a page from the bikers'  
book  
Naked seniors, so all can look  
They'll pedal blindly

One demonstration is enough  
Just once we'll have to strut our stuff  
Deterrence is the threat complete  
To vouchsafe our side of Moody  
Street  
They'll pedal gratefully. ❀

**Happy Hanukkah.  
Chag Urim Sameach!**



## Residents Enmeshed in NET

Seven Mirabella residents have taken the recent Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) training planned by Jeremy Van Keuren, Portland NET Program Coordinator. All training sessions except the final field exercise took place at Mirabella.

Presenters such as the Portland Fire and Rescue's Lieutenant Laurent Picard take a practical approach



NET trainees prepare John Branchflower for a blanket lift. Photo by Anne Clark.

to topics like putting out fires and applying first aid. For instance, anyone using a fire extinguisher such as those in Mirabella hallway niches should only try to subdue a fire "the size of a kitchen garbage can" and only if it has not spread beyond its point of origin.

That person should also remember the acronym PASS: pull, aim, squeeze and sweep. He or she should aim the extinguisher at the bottom of the blaze. No untrained person should try to extinguish a larger fire or one that has spread. A video shown at one NET session, of an armchair fire spreading wildly in two minutes, reinforced Picard's message.

For deep cuts and lacerations, a common result of earthquakes, NET volunteers learn to treat with direct pressure, elevation of the injured limb and pressure points. If bleeding continues, a volunteer may apply a tourniquet.

Copying down procedures in a class or viewing them in a Power Point presentation of course differs from encountering them in a real emergency. The final field exercise, with actors covered with fake blood and screaming, is closer to reality, but still a long way from a genuine emergency.

"We are learning easy life-saving skills, triage, search and rescue methodology and so much more," says Linda Campbell, one of Mirabella's NET participants.

Portland City Council recognized the 120 NET volunteers who helped out during "'heavy wind and rain events," as well as the gas explosion in northwest Portland. Following their philosophy of "Hope for the best, plan for the worst," Mirabella's NET volunteers hope not to use what they have learned but should be better equipped in an emergency. ❀



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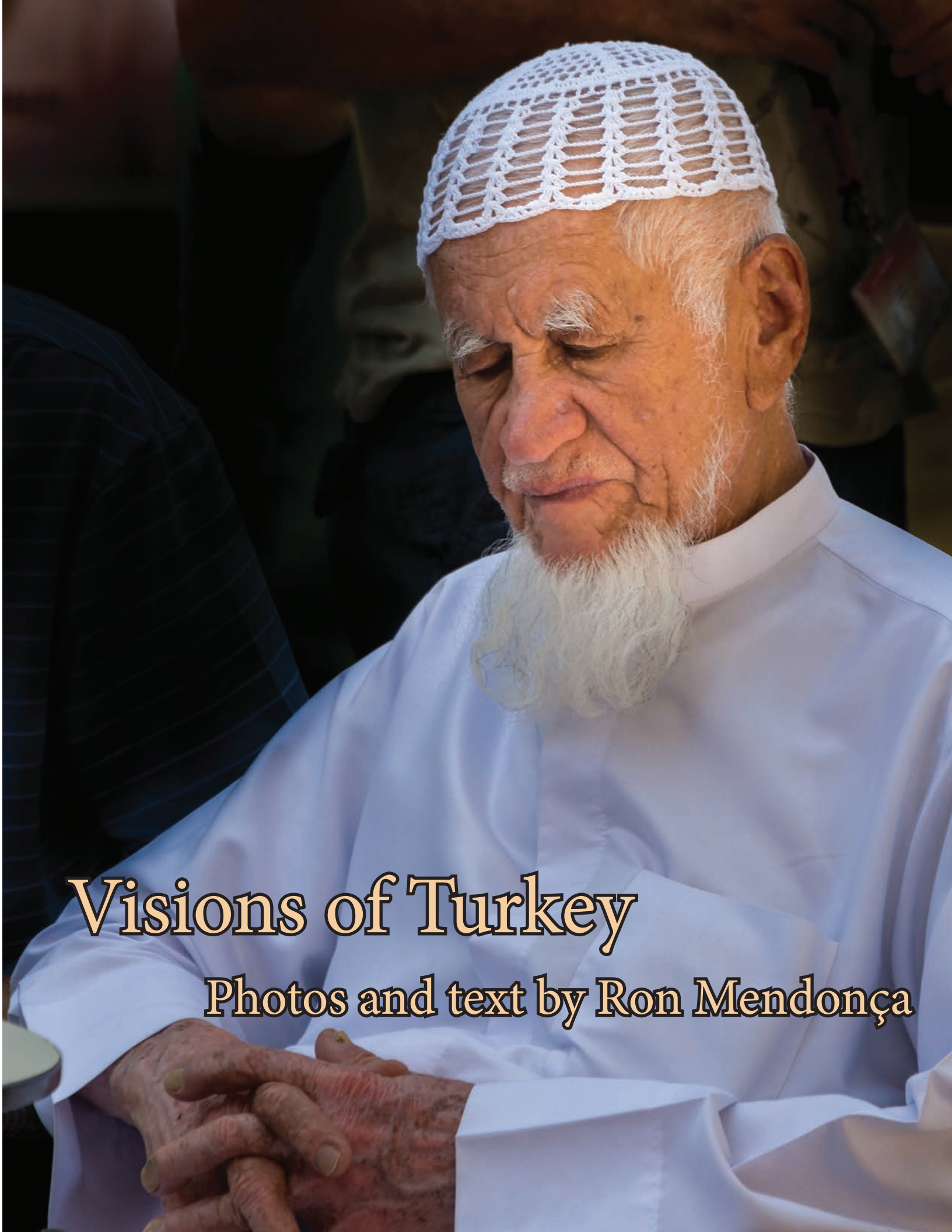
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# Visions of Turkey

Photos and text by Ron Mendonça



Istanbul – Blue Mosque

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Cappadocia street scene

---



Whirling Dervishes



Istanbul – Saint Sophia



minarets and calls for prayers over loudspeakers, five times a day, reminded us that we were in a Muslim country .

In one week our tour director, knowledgeable both in the history and the political atmosphere of the country, showed us many of Turkey's significant geographic points of interest. We traveled from Ankara, the capital city, to Cappadocia in the central part of Turkey and then to Istanbul to experience wonders that included the Santa Sophia, the blue Mosque, the Spice Market and the Grand Bazaar.

Our days were filled with many new experiences ranging from delicious meals to exciting adventures that included a before daybreak balloon ride over the tufa formations of Cappadocia, an evening of traditional Turkish music and dance and the opportunity to attend a twirling dervish performance.

Photographing the many sights was a bit challenging because we were part of a tour group whose main focus was not photography. Luckily I was able to squeeze in an extra moment now and then to find the best location for photographing a scene. Since my main interest in photography is scenic

landscapes, flowers and the occasional local person, I try to find subjects that are representative of the area or that portray an interesting view of the local scene. ❀

**T**urkey struck me as a vibrant, upcoming country anxious to be recognized as a modern member of society but still steeped in a traditional and religious atmosphere. Everywhere we turned the ever-present





Carpet merchant – Cappadocia



Tufa formations – Cappadocia



Ankara



Cappadocia balloon ride



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### Portland Diary

**O**verheard at a coffee shop table where two men are talking:

Man #1

... so I never answer the phone. Let the call go to voice mail. And I never say yes to a date right away. If she calls and says should she come over, I'll say, "Sorry, I've got something going on." Look, women are like cats. Chase a cat and what does it do?

Man #2

It runs away.

Man #1

Right. But sit and wait patiently. It's fascinated.

Man #2 heads to the restroom.

Man #1 takes out his phone and punches in a number.

I hear a mechanical voice say, "Sorry, that number is not in service. Check the number you dialed and try again."

Man #1 puts his phone away.

#### **Observed on a Streetcar:**

A young man, handsome and heavily tattooed, his long hair elaborately braided and carrying the packed duffle bag that suggests homelessness, sits in the streetcar's front seat, facing backward.

A young woman, pretty and wearing tight blue jeans, boards the car. She is carrying a loaded trash bag.

The man's eyes light up. The two of them begin a series of silent messages back and forth. They both get off at the next stop.

"Don't go with him," the woman sitting in front of me murmurs.

#### **Overheard in Nordstrom's shoe department:**

Salesman (waiting on a woman who is looking anxiously at her cell phone)

Is anything the matter?

Woman:

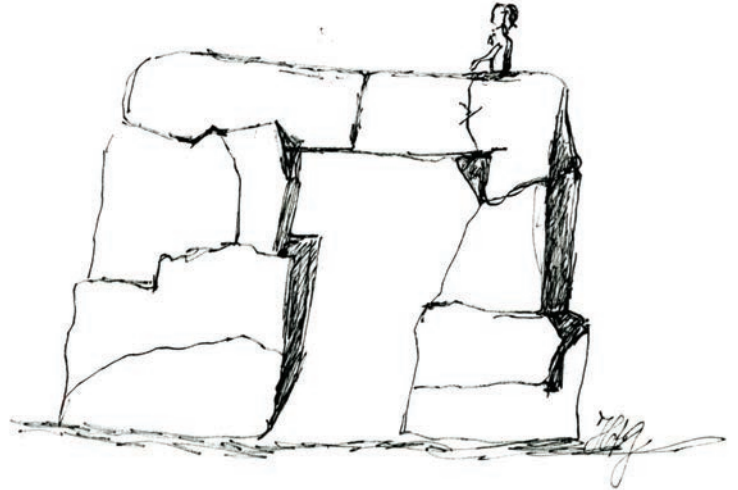
My daughter just texted. There's a bad thunderstorm coming.

Salesman:

I thought that wasn't until tomorrow.

Woman:

Oh, she's in New York.



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# Street Roots: A Life Raft

by Beverley Healy

At our Farmers Market on any given Thursday afternoon this past season, you may have noticed a small woman, neatly dressed and with a warm smile, holding in front of her a newspaper called Street Roots that can be purchased for \$1.

One of 140 such newspapers sold worldwide, Street Roots contains a mix of local and national news. It is published weekly here in Oregon and sold by vendors who are among our city's homeless and marginalized population.

The woman standing quietly near the music tent was a part of that population. Betty Jo Griffiths, like many of her fellow vendors, once had a more typical life: a job as a CNA, a marriage with three children and a home.

When her marriage failed Betty Jo, never good with money management, overspent while trying to make it up to her children, and she lost the house. She lived in an RV for the next seven years until that, too, was gone. Then her health failed and she was in serious trouble.

After several years of services provided by a network of resources, she became a vendor of Street Roots to gain what she calls a hand up instead of a handout.

Now with a regular spot in front of the County Courthouse four days a week in addition to her South Waterfront sales, she earns enough to pay rent for a room in a friend's house. The budget is tight, with \$189 for food, \$90 for rent, \$10 a day for a bus ticket to commute from Fairview, and \$5 to \$20 for papers to sell. She sees Street Roots offices and her job as a positive place in a negative world.

Betty Jo and about 150 others became vendors by attending an

orientation video, putting up the purchase price of 25 cents per copy, becoming familiar with the papers' content each week, and agreeing to treat people with respect.

Vendors must present a neat and clean appearance, with no drug or alcohol use on the job. A successful

vendor earns between \$200 and \$2,000 a month.

The paper's offices are on NW Davis where executive director Israel Bayer sees that the doors open by 7:30 a.m. to provide coffee and a warm environment until 9, when the staff of 10 paid employees and 30 volunteers set the place humming.



As a 501(c)(3) organization, Street Roots' funding comes from grants and individual contributions. They also publish and distribute a small, green Rose City Resource Guide twice yearly that presents the easiest way to find health and human services.

Israel, the Street Roots boss, can recount the story of homelessness in America since 1933 when a million people slept on the streets. In a city where a houseless person is old at 54 and can die in the street, Israel often acts as next of kin. While many in the greater population see homelessness as the result of drug abuse or infirmity, Israel says hopelessness and a loss of dignity lead to addiction rather than follow it.

We who are so well housed and well fed can give a hand up with a warm smile, eye contact and \$1 a week to purchase Street Roots.

You'll be happily surprised by the quality of content and the afterglow of a simple act of kindness.

Perhaps Betty Jo will be back next season; perhaps not. Sale of Street Roots is a waystation for most vendors, and at last report she was excited about a new opportunity offering a firmer financial foundation. That's part of what Street Roots is all about. ☘

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# Stroke Preparedness

by Bruce Howard

Stroke preparedness deserves the attention of Mirabella residents as much as earthquake preparedness. Loss of our friend Peter Fenner reminds us of a stroke's power.

While geologists assess risks over a half-century, a decade is more meaningful for the state of our health. Fortunately, when it comes to assessing our reasonable probability of stroke, guidance is near at hand.

The Oregon Stroke Center has a test on its website that can provide a prediction of your risk of stroke in the next ten years. It's helpful but not perfect and your mileage may vary.

Big Rip. This was not a surprise because two of my second-degree relatives suffered strokes.

Earthquake preparedness teaches us to duck, cover and hold on when shaking begins. Stroke preparedness tells us call 911 immediately (preceded by an eight if you are in your apartment) if we experience signs and/or symptoms of a stroke. There are 11 accredited advanced stroke centers in the Portland metropolitan area to which an ambulance may carry you.

The Oregon Stroke Center offers F.A.S.T. as an easy way to remember the signs and symptoms:

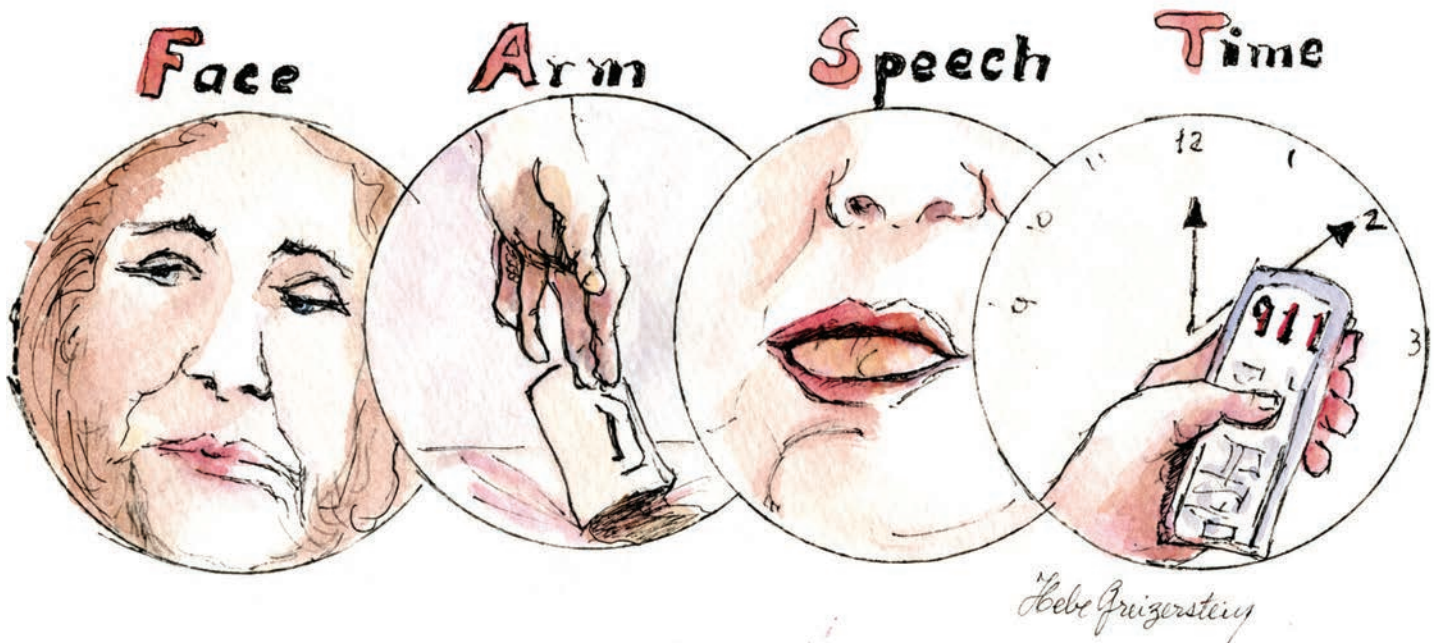
**Face:** Is the person's Face

sudden onset or change should make them call for help.

The reason for you (if you are able) or a bystander to call 911 immediately is that brain cells begin to die within 10 minutes of the onset of a stroke. Another reason is that the most readily available and effective emergency treatment must be given within three to six hours of onset of the stroke to work.

As you might imagine, stroke treatment is medically complex. Bear with me.

Intravenous tPA (short for tissue plasminogen activator) is a fibrinolytic agent that breaks up a clot. It must be given within three to six



If you take the test, be sure to discuss the results with your physician.

The questions consist of your age, systolic blood pressure, any treatment for high blood pressure, and a history of diabetes, smoking, atrial fibrillation, and enlargement of the left ventricle.

I was told that my risk for a stroke in the next ten years is about 10 times as great as the risk for the

drooping?

**Arm:** Is there Arm weakness?

**Speech:** Does the person have Speech difficulty?

**Time:** If so, it's Time to call 911.

Other stroke symptoms are difficulty with vision or ambulation, problems with balance or coordination, and severe headache. Some Mirabella residents may already be experiencing some of these. A

hours of the onset of the stroke.

Thrombectomy is a new and also effective treatment that was FDA-approved in 2012. It is available in Portland at at least four stroke centers, including OHSU.

Thrombectomy is a possible option after the time window for tPA has ended, if the results from CT perfusion scan combined with angiography are favorable. The factors

that determine whether or not thrombectomy is an option are the amount of permanent brain damage that has occurred, and the accessibility of the plugged artery to a “stent retriever” which is inserted into the femoral artery in the groin.

Under fluoroscopy, the stent is threaded within a micro-sized catheter to reach the clogged artery in the brain, where the stent acts like a columnar metal cage to engage the clot and extract it. This is clearly shown in an animation of the Penumbra Stroke System on YouTube. It is found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-jcgsAr6K2A>. Or just go to YouTube and search for Penumbra Stroke System.

Noah Beadell, MD, an OHSU vascular neurologist, explained in a BRAINet lecture that only 10% of stroke victims arrive at the stroke center in time for tPA.

Before tPA can be given, blood tests and a CT scan of the brain must be performed. The CT scan is to rule out hemorrhage from vessels in the brain, which accounts for 15% of acute strokes.

The results from tPA are not perfect. Of patients who receive only tPA, only 30-40% are able to return to functional independence for daily living. If treated with thrombectomy as well, 40%-60% are able to achieve functional independence. Functional Independence can mean a lot to people our age.

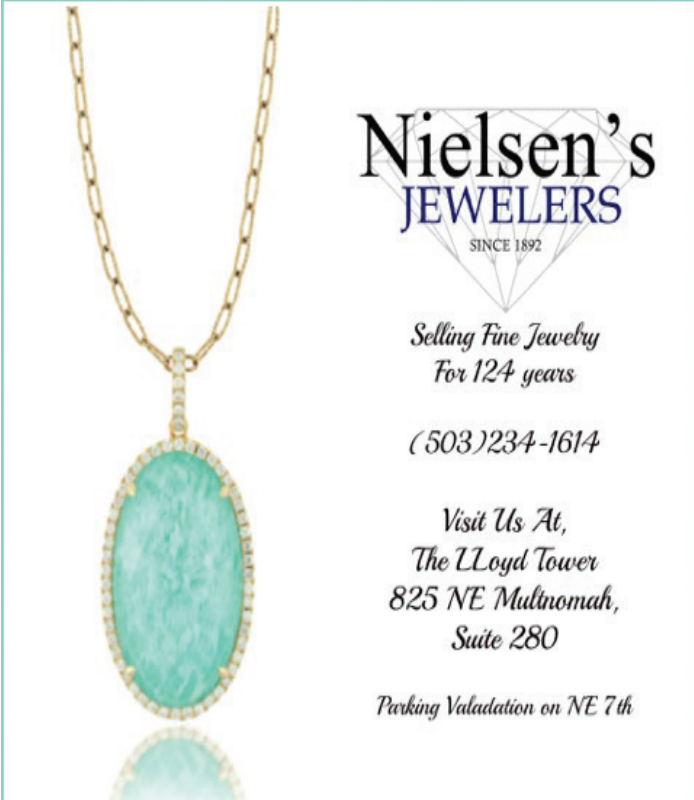
Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy are begun in the acute hospital for all stroke patients, no matter what emergency treatment they have received. Improvement can occur for as long as six months after a stroke.

But surely we would all like to skip stroke treatment by avoiding a stroke in the first place. Dr. Beadell's stroke prevention guidelines are much the same as those recommended for cardiovascular disease in general. They are blood pressure at or below 140/90, LDL (“bad” cholesterol) less than 100, no tobacco use, alcohol only in moderation, and moderate exercise three to four times a week.

Nutritional advice varies, because it is difficult to carry out controlled studies. The most recent consensus has been that saturated fats are less harmful than sugar.

A number of us have atrial fibrillation, which means that we take an anticoagulant to prevent embolization from the heart to the brain, which is another cause of acute strokes.

The best medicine for many of us to prevent stroke is to take a baby aspirin once a day, because of its anti-platelet action. Unlike earthquakes, we can decrease the likelihood of a stroke. ❁



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# Trademark Trivia

*By Rolf Glerum*

**O**K, all you trivia buffs – what do the following have in common? Gerber, Hyster, Jantzen, Leatherman, Nike, Pendleton, Phillips, Viewmaster and White Stag.

Answer: All are companies founded in Oregon and now known throughout the world. Seven of the nine originated in Portland. Nike was born in a garage in Eugene, and Pendleton began as a knitting mill in Salem, later moving its operations to the eastern Oregon town carrying that name.

The seven Portland corporations each have stories behind their corporate façade, some anecdotal and perhaps a bit apocryphal, but nevertheless worth mentioning.

## Gerber

No relation to the baby food people, Gerber Legendary Blades was started in 1939, and became an instant leader in fine cutlery. Later, the company began a line of sporting and survival knives, and today features a line of multi-tools endorsed by famous Irish outdoorsman and television star Bear Grylls.

## Hyster

Founded in the 1920s, Hyster's name is a coined term derived from loggers' slang when they "hoist up" a load of lumber. Hyster's principal product is forklift trucks, although it manufactures a complete line of industrial moving equipment. Mirabella's Bill Kilkenny is a past chairman and CEO of Hyster Company.

## Leatherman

The forerunner of the multi-tool industry, this handy pocket survival tool was invented by Oregon State

University engineering graduate Tim Leatherman in 1983. The tool is basically a pair of pliers with a variety of pull-out tools in the handles. Ten years ago on a safari trip to Africa, my wife and I were surprised to see all our guides using Leathermans. "Best tool I've ever had," one said.

## Phillips

This is a trivia fan's dream. Few people realize that Portlander Henry F. Phillips developed the ubiquitous Phillips screw (and presumably the screwdriver that makes it work) in 1935. Known as a crosshead screw, this innovative tool was used by General Motors for its 1936 Cadillacs.

## Viewmaster

How many of us remember the old stereoscopes of our childhood, where we put the two-vision photo in a frame and look through the lens to see a 3-D picture? The modern version of this, known as Sawyer's View-Master, was developed in

Portland in 1939. These popular stereoscopic viewers and their corresponding reels (thin disks containing seven pairs of small color transparencies) were manufactured in a large building near Washington Square. Eventually, Mattel Toys bought out the company; over its 77-year history it produced 25 different viewer models, thousands of titles and 1.5 billion reels. The 2016 model called the View-Master DXL is a virtual reality device that's used with a smart phone.

## Jantzen

Perhaps the most recognizable name and trademark among all Portland-founded companies, this iconic swimwear giant was founded in 1910 by German John Zehntbauer and Dutchman Carl Jantzen. The latter invented an automated knitting machine, allowing the fledgling company to make lightweight material for swimsuits ("bathing costumes" in those early days).

Jantzen soon became famous for its colorful trademark, a diving girl



**Famous Jantzen Trademark in Flight**

in a bright red (one-piece) swimsuit and cap, with the slogan, Just wear a smile and a Jantzen.

For many years, the left field wall of what is now Providence Park featured, in its Jantzen ad, a huge 21-foot fiberglass statue of the diver, attached by brackets jutting out from the wall. Legend had it that whenever a ball hit the statue, the batter got a \$100 bonus.

Jantzen swimwear is still popular around the world, although the company is now owned by Vanity Fair Corporation. It no longer has a Portland presence, although its original art deco factory building still exists at NE Glisan and Sandy Blvd.

### White Stag

Every Portlander is familiar with the neon sign over Old Town with the leaping reindeer and, during the holidays, a Rudolph red nose. But few realize that the sign was built in 1940 to advertise White Satin Sugar, then manufactured in Portland. The original sign contained just an outline of the state, fronted by a simple logo of the sugar brand.

The Hirsh-Weiss Corp. was founded in 1924 by Harry Weiss and Hirsh brothers, Max and Leopold. Eventually, the name was changed to White Stag (weis-hirsh in German, get it?), an apparel company specializing in ski wear.

In 1957, White Stag realized the sign's potential, so it bought the sign, added the dramatic deer, and changed the second word's lettering from Sugar to Stag, which is how it remained for 40 years.

White Stag Corp. eventually was bought out by Warnaco, Inc., but the brand still exists, as does the original building that houses the famous sign at the west end of the Burnside Bridge.

Two additional permutations of the sign took place in later years – from 1997 to 2010, the sign read Made In Oregon – OLD TOWN (a reference to the Made In Oregon

stores), and from 2010 to the present, a simple Portland, Oregon – OLD TOWN.

Please allow me a personal note here. Although I'm sure other Oregon companies could be included in an article such as this, these are the ones that come to my mind . . . and three of them – Hyster Company, Gerber Legendary Blades and Sawyer's View-Master – were my clients when I was in the advertising business in Portland, oh so many years ago. ❀



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## Artists Rep

Artists Repertory Theatre hopes its Christmas show, “A Civil War Christmas” by Paula Vogel, will “be a balm after a tumultuous time and polarizing election,” according to Nicole Lane, the theater’s director of communications. Or as Abraham Lincoln said, help to “bind up the nation’s wounds.”

The play follows a number of story levels, mixing historical characters such as Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln and Walt Whitman with fictional figures such as a blacksmith and a young boy who wants to join the Confederate army. Set right after Lincoln’s second inaugural address, the play celebrates reconciliation in a time of turmoil.

The play’s subtitle is “An American Celebration,” and playwright Vogel has allowed Artists Rep to commission local composers like Edna Vasquez and Darrell Grant to rearrange the show’s music and update its period songs.

Earlier this year Artists Rep became the 72nd member of our national League of Regional Theatres, which artistic director Damaso Rodriguez said marks the theater’s growth from a “scrappy start-up to a leading regional theatre.” Artists Rep is the first theatre added to LORT in seven years.

The show runs from November 22 to December 23. Telephone is 503-241-1278, or people can order tickets on the web at [artistsrep.org](http://artistsrep.org).

## Northwest Dance Soars

by Anne Clark

In a gown split down the side from her waist to the floor, the statuesque Sarah Slipper strides onto the stage. She is beaming with excitement and pride because her company is presenting three world premiere dance pieces on this opening night. How many companies would take such a risk? Sarah is the artistic director of Portland’s NW Dance Project, and as the Calgary Herald declares on the advertising poster out front, the company has “some of the best dancers you will ever see.”

There are three new members of the company this season, bringing the number of dancers to 11. The strong dramatic and physical capabilities they bring to each piece make watching them especially exciting. But they seem to be at their best when they are playful, as they were in the world premiere of Bolero, choreographed by resident choreographer Ihsan Rustem. The music is so well known it can almost be boring. But the dancers, whose bodies were painted in bold swathes of bright color, and the unconventional setting clamored for attention. The dancers frolicked with controlled abandon and deep sensuality. There are

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three shows left this season, in December, March and June. As one reviewer wrote, the best gift you can give yourself is a seat at a NWDP performance.

<http://www.orartswatch.org/bolero-with-a-wink/>  
<https://thusspokeladym.wordpress.com/2016/10/18/mind-blown-at-nw-dance-projects-bolero-ps-im-baaaaaack/>



## Continuing Theatre

### *One Man, Two Guvnors*

Lakewood Theatre  
503-635-3901  
Through Dec. 11

### *A Civil War Christmas*

Artists Repertory Theatre  
503-241-1278

**Mirabella Bus Dec. 11, 1:15 p.m.**

Through Dec. 23

### *PDX MAS*

Broadway Rose  
503-620-5262  
12850 SW Grant Ave, Tigard

**Mirabella Bus Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.,**

**\$10.00**

Through Dec. 22

### *Parfumerie*

Bag & Baggage Productions  
The Venetian  
253 E. Main St., Hillsboro

**Mirabella Bus Dec 8, 5:30 p.m.,**

**\$10.00**

503-345-9590

Through Dec. 23

### *Buyer & Cellar*

Triangle Productions  
503-239-5919

**Mirabella Bus Dec. 4, 1:15 p.m.,**

**\$10.00**

Through Dec. 17

### *The Santaland Diaries*

Portland Center Stage

**Mirabella Bus Dec. 17, 1 p.m.**

503-445-3700

Through Dec. 24

### *A Christmas Carol*

Portland Playhouse

503-488-5822

802 NE Prescott

Through Dec. 30

### *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin*

Portland Center Stage

**Mirabella Bus Dec 10, 1:00 p.m.**

503-445-3700

Through Dec. 30



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## Art & Theater Openings

### *December 1 – Plaid Tidings*

Stumptown Stages

503-381-8686

Antoinette Hatfield Hall

Through Dec. 24

### *December 2 – Sorry! Wrong Chimney!*

Beaverton Civic Theatre

503-754-9866

Beaverton City Library Auditorium

12375 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Through Dec. 17

### *December 2 – Venus and Adonis by William Shakespeare*

Shaking The Tree Theatre

503-228-1353

823 SE Grant

Through Dec. 24

### *December 3 – Turangalila*

Oregon Symphony

503-228-1353

Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

Through Dec. 5

**December 4 – Glory of Christmas**  
Oregon Repertory Singers  
First United Methodist Church  
**Mirabella Bus Dec 9, 6:45 p.m.**  
503-230-0652  
Through Dec. 11

**December 8 – In Good Company**  
NW Dance Project  
Lincoln Performance Center – PSU  
503-828-8285  
Through Dec. 10

**December 9 – Handel’s Messiah**  
*(Complete, 3 hours)*  
Portland Baroque Orchestra  
First Baptist Church  
503-222-6000  
Through Dec. 11

**December 9 – Gospel Christmas**  
Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
Through Dec. 11

**December 10 – The Nutcracker**  
Oregon Ballet Theatre  
Keller Auditorium

**Mirabella Bus Dec. 21, 1:15 p.m.**  
**503-222-5538**  
Through Dec. 26

**December 11 – ZOOZOO**  
Imago Theatre  
503-231-9581  
17 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Through Jan. 3

**December 12 – Handel’s Messiah**  
**Highlights**  
Portland Baroque Orchestra  
First Baptist Church  
**Mirabella Bus 7 p.m.**  
503-222-6000  
7:30 p.m.

**December 15 – Bach Magnificat & Festive Cantatas**  
Portland Baroque Orchestra  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
Mirabella Bus 6:45 p.m.  
503-222-6000  
7:30 p.m.

**December 17 – A Byzantine Christmas**  
Cappella Romana

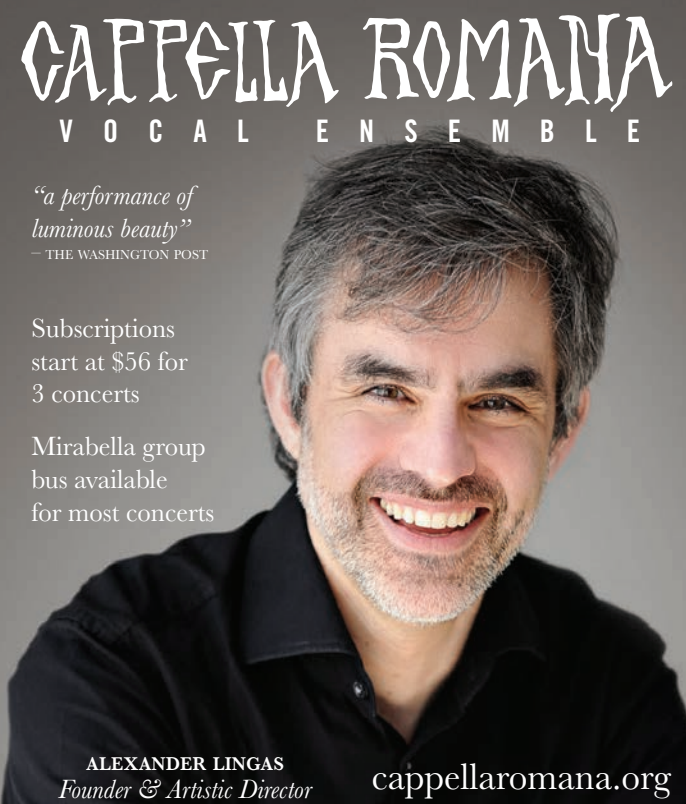
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox  
Cathedral  
NE 32 & Glisan  
**Mirabella Bus 7:15 p.m., \$5.00**  
503-236-8202  
8 p.m.

**December 17 – It’s a Wonderful Life**  
Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
7:30 p.m.

**December 18 – Comfort and Joy: A Classical Christmas**  
Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
3 p.m. & 7 p.m.

**December 22 – Cirque Dreams Holiday**  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
954-975-9525  
Through Dec. 24

**December 30 – Ode to Joy: New Year’s Celebration**  
Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall



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**January 3 – Finding Neverland**

Keller Auditorium  
Through Jan. 8

**January 6 – Agatha Christie’s  
Murder on the Nile**

Lakewood Theatre  
503-635-3901  
Through Feb. 12

**January 7 – Nadja and the Four  
Seasons**

Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
7:30 p.m.

**January 8 – The Byrd Ensemble**

Cappella Romana  
St Stephen’s Catholic Church  
SE 41<sup>st</sup> & Taylor  
**Mirabella Bus 2:15 p.m.**  
503-236-8202  
3 p.m.

**January 12 – El Paysaso (World  
Premiere)**

Milagro Theatre (Bilingual)  
503-236-7253

525 SW Stark  
Through Jan. 21

**January 14 – The Pines of Rome**

Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
Through Jan. 16

**January 14 – Astoria**

Portland Center Stage  
**Mirabella Bus Jan. 22, 1:00 p.m.**  
503-445-3700  
Through Feb. 12

**January 18 – Tahni Holt  
– Sensation/Disorientation**

White Bird Dance  
503-245-1600  
Diver Studio Theatre, Reed College  
Through Jan. 22

**January 19 – DeVotchKa**

Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
7:30 p.m.

**January 20 – Carnivoria (World  
Premiere)**

Theatre Vertigo

503-482-8655  
2110 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Through Feb. 18

**January 20 – Rent**

Keller Auditorium  
Through Jan. 22

**January 24 – Balletboyz Life**

**White Bird Dance**

503-245-1600  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
Through Jan 25., 7:30 p.m.

**January 26 – Company**

Broadway Rose  
503-620-5262  
12850 SW Grant Ave, Tigard  
Through Feb. 26

**January 27 – Macbeth**

Shaking The Tree Theatre  
503-235-0635  
823 SE Grant  
Through Feb. 25

**January 28 – Tchaikovsky’s Romeo  
and Juliet**

Oregon Symphony

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Mirabella bus available for Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> performance.



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**January 28 – All-Night Vigil by Rautvaara**

Cappella Romana  
1/28 – St Mary's Cathedral NW 18<sup>th</sup> & Couch 8 p.m.  
1/29 – St Stephen's Catholic Church SE 41<sup>st</sup> & Taylor  
3 p.m.

**Mirabella Bus Jan. 29, 2:15 p.m., \$10.00**  
503-236-8202

**January 31 – The Illusionists**

Keller Auditorium  
Through Feb. 5

**February 2 – Black Mozart: Chevalier Saint-Georges**

Portland Baroque Orchestra  
Kaul Auditorium, Reed College  
**Mirabella Bus 6:45 p.m., \$10.00**  
503-222-6000  
7:30 p.m.

**February 2 – Forever Dusty**

Triangle Productions  
503-239-5919

**Mirabella Bus Feb. 19, 1:15 p.m., \$10.00**  
Through Feb. 25

**February 4 – His Eye is on the Sparrow**

Portland Center Stage  
**Mirabella Bus Feb. 12, 1:00 p.m.**  
503-445-3700  
Through Mar. 19

**February 4 – Dvorak's New World Symphony**

Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
Through Feb. 6

**February 7 – Marjorie Prime**

Artists Repertory Theatre

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503-241-1278  
Through Mar. 5

**February 8 – Pen/Man/Ship**

Portland Playhouse  
503-488-5822  
802 NE Prescott  
Through Mar. 5

**February 9 – Swimming While  
Drowning (World Premiere)**

Milagro Theatre (English)  
525 SW Stark  
Through Feb. 25

**February 9 – Arvo Part Festival**

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mana.org  
503-236-8202  
Through Feb. 12

**February 12 – Pied Piper of  
Portlandia Kids Concert**

Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
2:00 p.m.

**February 14 – A Storm Large  
Valentine**

Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
7:30 p.m.

**February 17 – Bach Orchestral  
Suites**

Portland Baroque Orchestra  
First Baptist Church 2/17 & 2/18  
7:30 p.m.  
Kaul Auditorium, Reed College 2/19  
3:00 p.m.

**Mirabella Bus Feb. 17, 7:00 p.m.**

502-222-6000

**February 18 – Swan Lake**

Oregon Ballet Theatre  
Keller Auditorium  
**Mirabella Bus Feb 23, 6:45p.m.**  
503-222-5538  
Through Feb. 25

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**February 18 – Tango Caliente**

Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
Through Feb. 19

**February 20 – The Music of Prince**

Oregon Symphony  
503-228-1353  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
7:30 p.m.

**February 22 – CCN-Ballet De  
Lorraine**

White Bird Dance  
503-245-1600  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
7:20 p.m.

**February 25 – Elgar's Enigma  
Variations**

Oregon Symphony  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
503-228-1353  
Through Feb. 27

**February 28 – Matilda The Musical**

Keller Auditorium  
Through Mar. 5

**March 2 – The 7 Fingers – Cuisine  
& Confessions**

White Bird Dance  
Newmark Theatre  
Through Mar. 4

**March 2 – Bronte**

Bag & Baggage Productions  
The Venetian  
253 E. Main St., Hillsboro  
Through Mar. 19

**March 3 – God of Carnage**

Lakewood Theatre  
503-635-3901  
Through Apr. 9

**March 7 – Feathers and Teeth**

Artists Repertory Theatre  
Through Apr. 2

**March 9 – Golda’s Balcony**

Triangle Productions  
1785 NE Sandy  
**Mirabella Bus Mar.19, 1:15 p.m.**

**\$10.00**  
Through Apr. 2

**March 9 – Companhia Urbana de  
Danca**

White Bird Dance  
Newmark Theatre  
Through Mar. 11 – 8 p.m.

**March 10 – Purcell & Shakespeare**

Portland Baroque Orchestra  
First Baptist Church 3/10 & 3/11  
7:30 p.m.  
Kaul Auditorium, Reed College 3/12  
3:00 p.m.  
**Mirabella Bus Mar 10, 7 p.m.**  
502-222-6000

**March 11 – Dvorak’s Cello Concerto**

Oregon Symphony  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
Through Mar. 13

**March 15 – John Cleese**

Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
7:30 p.m.

**March 16 – Wild and Reckless**

Portland Center Stage  
503-445-3700  
Through Apr. 30

**March 16 – Lydia (NW Premiere)**

Milagro Theatre (English)  
525 SW Stark  
Through Apr. 8

**March 16 – Carmen +**

NW Dance Project  
Newmark Theatre  
**Mirabella Bus Mar. 16, 7 p.m.**  
**503-828-8285**  
Through Mar. 18

**March 17 – Lauren Weedman**

**Doesn’t Live Here Anymore**  
Portland Center Stage  
503-445-3700  
Through Apr. 30

**March 19 – The Northwest Boychoir**

Cappella Romana  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
NW 19<sup>th</sup> & Everett  
**Mirabella Bus 4:15 pm**  
503-236-8202  
5 p.m.

**March 19 – Castle and Wizards**

**Kids Concert**  
Oregon Symphony  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
2:00 p.m.

**March 24 – Mamma Mia!**

Keller Auditorium  
Through Mar. 26 ☼

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Any of you remember your Mom saying “Many hands make light work”? I remembered it when **Gwen Luhta** thanked the 15 good folks who knit 130 scarves for the Northwest Pilot Program recently. We’ll add our thanks also. Fantastic.

Congratulations also to those Mirabella duplicate bridge players who joined the winners circle during the three months ending September 30. The games are open to all Portland residents and visitors, which included winning players



from regional and national tournaments. Our own stars are **Laurie Hardin, Ed Parker, Jean Davis, Betsy Bullard and Mary Bosch.**

**Nancy Moss** says that on December 7 the Mirabella Players will perform a staged reading of Truman Capote’s short story “A Christmas Memory”. It is adapted for the stage by our very own Nancy Moss. **Don Marshall** will play Buddy, **Dot Lukins** his Friend and **Judy Seubert and Kathryn Boe Duncan** will provide the music. This engaging performance will be in Willamette Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Our boundlessly creative **Sivia Kaye**—with Gwen Luhta as her producer— continues to give the stage to both residents and staff on a monthly basis with her Prism interviews. They are usually the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Willamette Hall. We learn about the exciting lives and accomplishments many of our neighbors enjoyed before landing at Mirabella. At the moment Sivia is considering a group discussion of Hamlet’s soliloquies instead of a creative writing or memoir group. Stay tuned!

Another heart-warming story—and thanks from **Mary Zehrung.** “Quilts for Kids has had a very successful five years, donating 155 colorful and adorable quilts to the CARES program for abused children. My heartfelt thanks to all of you dear ladies who made this project such a heartwarming endeavor.”

And most of all to you, Mary, for your creation and devotion to this remarkable project of passing love to the children.

Speaking of serving your “fellow man”—specifically us here at Mirabella. Our incredibly thorough and helpful Earthquake Preparedness Committee, chaired by Ed Parker and **Barbara Short,** tells us “The Committee has organized 11 resident teams to help Mirabella independent living residents prepare for the big Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. We hope it doesn’t happen in our lifetime, but the preparation is good insurance and will make us ready for any disaster.” The Committee gives special thanks to organizer **Anne Clark,** the 11 earthquake team (E-team) leaders and the 70 volunteers working on the project. Each team is responsible for helping residents in 16 to 24 apartments on nearby floors. If you need assistance or help getting supplies, please contact one of the team members serving your floor group, or call Anne Clark at Mirabella extension 6778. Anne has identified two important and easily overlooked items in your disaster preparation, is purchasing them at quantity discount prices and providing them at cost to other residents. These items are whistles (3 for \$1) and sanitary bags for toilet waste (approximately \$2 each).

Whistles will provide residents with an easy way to signal others that they need help. Waste bags will be important when plumbing is no longer available.

Personal note: My 75<sup>th</sup> high school reunion was terrific! Six classmates tethered—or should I say on leashes—to our seven drivers. There are 18 or so other survivors of the 161 in our Class of 1941. Our local newspaper ran pictures and a front page story the next day. Sweet. ☘

# Woof. Meow.



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# High Rise Gardens Calm Fears

by Yvonne Branchflower

Looking up at our tower reveals that the higher people live, the less likely they are to have potted

weather. They are ideal for people who want a pretty balcony but get the heebie-jeebies when they step out on it.

How high should this barrier be?



Photos by Yvonne Branchflower

plants and furniture on their balconies – especially the small ones. This is sad because balconies provide an opportunity to step outside and enjoy the late-evening air.

If your balcony creeps you out, there may be an easy solution: creating a barrier between you and the balcony edge.

Acrophobia is not just fear of heights, but also fear of *edges*. A row of troughs can eliminate that feeling of edge by creating a barrier between you and straight down. The troughs and plants allow you to see out from your balcony only at a shallow angle, creating a greater feeling of safety.

How often you need to muster up the courage to step out on your balcony with a watering can depends on the type of trough you use. Earth Boxes, with their built-in reservoir, can get by on once-a-week filling in summer and less often in cooler

My balcony, pictured here, illustrates a mix of plants that created a barrier two feet high in mid-August, including the trough. By late September plants were three feet and higher.

Evergreens that reach the top of the balcony railing provide an even greater sense of security and have the added benefit of wind reduction.

Including fuchsias among your plantings will guarantee hummingbirds to your balcony without the mess of hummingbird feeders. Before you know it, you will find yourself wanting to buy a colorful bistro set. ☘



## Answers to "Who Are They?"

- 1 – S
- 2 – E
- 3 – K
- 4 – Z
- 5 – L
- 6 – R
- 7 – I
- 8 – N
- 9 – Q
- 10 – T
- 11 – C
- 12 – O
- 13 – V
- 14 – P
- 15 – D
- 16 – X
- 17 – W
- 18 – M
- 19 – Y
- 20 – H
- 21 – F
- 22 – B
- 23 – J
- 24 – U
- 25 – G
- 26 – A



## Southwest Charter School



*The streetcar is transportation by Owen C.*

## Books Create Buddies

Elaine Yudkin heads Mirabella's Reading Buddies program, where Southwest Charter School first and second graders read to Mirabella residents once a month.

Each month 44 children read to about 26 adults; they next ask their buddy a question and then draw a picture and write something about the adult's response.

One month, for instance, the question was, "What is your favorite book?" Adults know the question in advance, so they don't blurt out an inappropriate response.

Like the NFL, Elaine is always recruiting and points out that many of these children don't have 45 minutes of uninterrupted face time with an adult. Eager for new residents to learn of the program, Elaine points out that "no skills are necessary" and she would like the program to reach a ratio of two children to one adult. ☼



# Rainy Rainier

“You are obsessive-compulsive,” my lovely wife, Adrienne, admonished me.

“I have no idea what you are talking about,” I responded. “Sure, I always double check to be sure that doors are locked and lights are



turned off, but that makes me a perfectionist. Well, okay, I am a control freak.”

That explains precisely why I wanted Adrienne’s surprise

birthday celebration at Mount Rainier to go without a flaw. After all, that is what perfection and control are all about.

Of course, even a control freak

## Larry Braverman

can’t control some things, like rain. But I had no choice; rain or shine, it was Adrienne’s birthday and Mount Rainier was on her bucket list so I secretly made reservations at a rustic mountain retreat.

The tiny cottage was described in the brochure as “a charming, romantic hideaway in the woods with fireplace and indoor plumbing” – which sounded perfect to me – especially the indoor plumbing. “Charming,” however, in truth meant scalding hot or freezing cold running water, unreliable flusher, minuscule shower stall, malfunctioning space heater, fireplace stacked with damp wood, no TV, and no owner nor maintenance personnel anywhere on the site. The one key to the place—which was unlocked—was sitting on the bed next to a cuddly teddy bear.

“I hope you love this perfect private hideaway,” I whispered

romantically.

“I love the bear,” was Adrienne’s only comment.

Okay, it was a lousy start to her surprise birthday weekend for a control freak like me. And, oh yes, it was raining...hard...and the car’s muddy parking space was more than a quarter of a mile from the charming hideaway.

That evening we went to the birthday party for Adrienne I had secretly staged at “Soggy Bottom,” — the perfect name my daughter, Suki, and son-in-law, Roger, had given to their wooded property a couple of miles down the road.

The festivities were held under the protective cover of trees, which would have been idyllic if it weren’t for the drenching rain and the makeshift tarp which leaked water on the tables and chairs, the once-beautiful, now soggy, birthday cake, and all the guests, who quickly departed.

When the tarp totally collapsed and we were thoroughly soaked, Adrienne and I made a mad slosh through the woods to our car... she carrying the soggy cake and me running close behind, tightly grasping both the car key and the cabin key in my pocket. When we got to the car, I grabbed the cake with one hand and yanked her door open with the other, dropping the car key in the mud. Fortunately, my obsessive compulsion to have a pocket flashlight available at all times paid off handsomely because I was able to find the key, even in the dark, and we drove silently back to the muddy parking lot.

When we finally arrived at the hideaway door, both of us dripping wet, I discovered that the key to the cabin was not in my pocket. Birthday girl was not normally a

gambler, but this time she decided the odds were in her favor.

“Hey, Mr. Perfection, I’ll bet you dropped it in the mud with the car key.”

I won’t repeat my perfect four-letter one-word response as we slogged to the parking lot and zoomed back to Soggy Bottom, where we silently searched the entire area in the dark, in the rain, in the hail, in the mud, and finally the car, front and back, and under all the seats and the mats...but no cabin key. So we went back to search the hideaway’s parking lot...also to no avail.... and decided that we probably either had to smash the hideaway door, break a window, find another place to stay — no doubt impossible this late — or sleep in the car...the perfect nightmare for a control freak like me.

Fortunately, I was able to awaken the perturbed owner on the phone, who gave me the combination to a nearby lockbox that contained an extra key, but not without mentioning that there would be a significant additional fee to cover both the cost of making a new second key and his very valuable time.

I could barely sleep mulling over the disastrous day, arose precisely at dawn, got dressed quietly in the dark, and drove back to Soggy Bottom where I was absolutely certain that I had dropped the cabin key. For the first time that so-called party weekend it was not raining.

Just as the fabulous sun broke the clear blue horizon, I arrived at the exact spot about which I had been thinking all night. And, wouldn’t you know, there it was, glistening in the grass, the lost key. It was truly the perfect climax. Frankly, it made my whole weekend a stunning success, which I kept to myself. ❀

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