

A photograph of a woman with short grey hair, wearing a bright red long-sleeved shirt, sitting on a modern grey metal bench. She is viewed from behind, looking out over a calm lake. In the foreground, a large, leafy green tree with a thin trunk stands to the left. The background shows a shoreline with more trees and a clear blue sky. The number '3550' is printed in large red font in the upper right corner.

# 3550

September 2021

a publication by and for the residents of Mirabella Portland



**Ed Parker**  
*Co-Editor*



**Barbara Gaines**  
*President*

**T**O MASK OR NOT TO MASK? THAT SHOULD NO LONGER be a question. The Covid-19 Delta variant has given us a clear answer. Everyone, including fully vaccinated people, should wear masks in indoor public spaces.

We are in a raging “pandemic of the unvaccinated.” The highly contagious Delta variant is spreading rapidly through the unvaccinated population. Cases and hospitalizations are rising again.

A recent study in Massachusetts confirmed that the Delta variant is infecting too many fully vaccinated people. The vaccine protects most people from severe cases that lead to hospitalization or death. But it does not keep vaccinated people from catching the disease and spreading it to others.

We are privileged to live in a community where 100% of residents are vaccinated. But many of us are going out into the wider world and consequently risk bringing the virus back to Mirabella. Guests, contractors or employees could also bring the virus in.

The Pfizer vaccine we got here was close to 95% effective against the original virus. An Israeli study found that the Pfizer vaccine was only 64% effective against getting symptomatic Covid from the new Delta variant. Even asymptomatic carriers of the Delta variant can spread it to others. As the virus continues spreading and mutating, we risk the evolution of a new variant that can evade the remaining protection we have.

People with compromised immune systems or with serious underlying health conditions are particularly vulnerable because they may have less vaccine protection or are at higher risk for severe consequences. We should do our part to protect them.

Did you notice that we didn’t have a flu season last year? And had fewer colds? The old normal had some disadvantages. This pandemic won’t be over until enough people in every country are vaccinated. That won’t happen soon.

Wearing masks should make the new normal safer and healthier than the old unmasked normal. ■

**A**S I WRITE THIS IN MID-JULY, MASKS ARE OFF FOR THE MOST part, balanced as necessary when the science which protects us tells us to mask-up. We are fortunate to live in a highly vaccinated region of the country and so have many positive experiences others may not have. Residents are happy to see smiling resident and staff faces and to meet face-to-face in on-campus meetings.

Our super vaccination rate means many folks are traveling farther than the Portland farmer’s market at PSU and enjoying an occasional restaurant visit. Some are venturing out of the city and state to see family who have only been available by Zoom, Facetime or some other video connection. Real hugs are valued touches for everyone.

Holding our first in-person RAMP meeting in Willamette Hall in June was a treat for some of us. In our excitement, we did not ask to have it recorded. We apologize and have since made provisions to be sure all council meetings will also be available on Channel 981. The minutes of the meeting are available on the Miranet and in the RAMP notebook in the library.

Association committees and interest groups are active. Live programming and movies are once again available in Willamette Hall, as are birthday celebrations. Sunday suppers with the travel club are back, the art studio is abuzz with classes and projects, and fitness center classes and activities have expanded. It is not quite the same, but the new normal is not foreign either. Mirabella is alive and well.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout this strange and often difficult year. Celebrate your resilience and enjoy each day. ■



**O**N THE COVER:  
Karen Early  
watches the  
Willamette River on a  
summer day. Photo by  
Robert French.



**B**ACK COVER:  
Elizabeth Caruthers  
Park in sunlight and  
shadow. Photo by Richard  
Mounts.

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## 3550 Wins Top Awards

ONCE AGAIN, YOUR 3550 MAGAZINE HAS TAKEN HOME top awards in a national contest honoring publication excellence.

The 2021 Apex Awards judging panel evaluated writing, photography, layout, editorial judgment and overall quality in a competition that this year drew more than 1,100 entries from publications large and small around the country, for work published during 2020.

3550 won six awards.

Then-editor Steve Casey, on behalf of the entire staff, took a "Grand Award," the highest honor, for the entirety of the September 2020 issue.

That issue featured in-depth essays on Portland street protests and violence, with exceptional pictures by photographers from 3550 and The Oregonian.

It also celebrated the 10th anniversary of Mirabella and examined how parent company Pacific Retirement Services overcame the economic challenges of the 2008 economic meltdown.

"Awards of Excellence" went to Steve for "How Mirabella Beat the Bug" (June 2020) on Mirabella's effort to keep staff and residents safe during the pandemic, to photographer Robert French for his photo essay "Blue Hour Photography" (December 2020) and to Rita Effros for health and medical writing, for her story "Stress is a Killer" (June 2020).

Priscilla Cowell was a repeat winner for feature writing, honored this year for her gracious profile of resident Ralph Merrill (September 2020.) She won in the same category last year for her moving story about her second-grade pen pal.

Steve and former Mirabella server and 3550 contributor Deavon Snoke won for their stories on the year-long series of Portland protests and riots.

The winners were announced in July.

The awards are the product of Communications Concepts, Inc., which helps publishing, public relations and marketing professionals improve their skills.

3550 has taken top awards in each of the last three years. ■



## Internet Conversion Completed

MIRABELLA'S SWITCH OF INTERNET PROVIDER FROM Comcast (Xfinity) to Gigabit Now (GBN) should be completed by Sept. 1.

By early August, the installation team had kept up with the installation schedule distributed to residents in June. The conversion project has gone smoothly. The Mirabella facility services team and its contractors helped residents convert their electronic devices to the new service.

After all their electronic devices, including computers, mobile phones and TVs, were working properly on the GBN service, residents canceled their Comcast internet service. Mirabella staff arranged for the return of Comcast equipment that was no longer needed.



"Lassie, get tech support."

There is no charge for the new service because costs are included in Mirabella monthly fees. Executive Director Sharon McCartney said at the late July resident coffee social that the cost to Mirabella is about \$25 a month per apartment.

Sharon has said that, in addition to saving residents money by lowering the cost of internet service, having high quality internet service, both wired and wireless (Wi-Fi), in every apartment at no additional cost is an important marketing tool to attract new residents.

Comcast television services were not affected by the internet conversion. Mirabella continues to pay Comcast for limited basic and digital starter channels. Residents who have not ordered additional Comcast sports, pay TV or specialty channels no longer pay Comcast anything.

—Ed Parker

# Frog Ferry Prospects Improved

**T**HE PROSPECTS FOR A SYSTEM OF PASSENGER FERRIES RUNNING from Vancouver to Portland (and, potentially, on to Lake Oswego) appear to be steadily improving.

The non-profit Friends of Frog Ferry (FFF) received a \$240,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation (including \$40,000 from the Portland Bureau of Transportation). The funds will go to pay the salary of FFF President Susan Bladholm and support a third feasibility study focusing on the interface with the TriMet transit grid, an inventory of existing infrastructure along the line and an updated look at needed capital expenditures.

In recent months, Bladholm and her board have met with 10 state and federal entities and with 21 other agencies or groups, including congressional staff from Oregon and southern Washington, Prosper Portland (formerly the Portland Development Commission), Metro and city and Multnomah County commissioners.

The next big FFF project is a proof-of-concept pilot program. Using a leased vessel, they plan to operate a two-year, six-day-a-week service from Cathedral Park (St. Johns neighborhood) to the River Place dock (where there used to be a floating restaurant) in Portland. The pilot is scheduled to begin — assuming funding is obtained — in 2022.

The pilot program ship will operate on “clean” R99 diesel fuel (estimated 80% reduction in fine particulate emissions) produced from waste biomass. Projections show

comparison, FFF notes that while the Frog Ferry subsidy would have to be around 55% of operating cost, subsidies for the TriMet system run around 84%.

The FFF website says the pilot program will also “inform” designs for the electric motors and charging stations that would eventually be installed to operate the full seven-ship fleet. Funding that electrification will be a future challenge. The Biden administration’s support of “green tech” projects is a possible — though highly competitive — source of financial support.

—Pete Swan

## Electric Car Sharing



**T**RANSPORTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR JOYCE GUSTAFSON shows off the new Chevrolet Bolt that will be available for resident use under an Envoy car-sharing program (see <https://www.envoythere.com/>). Residents will be able to reserve the car through an app on their smartphones. The service will be available after completion of software installation at the charging station in the Mirabella parking area and the Mirabella valet staff are taught how to help residents install the app on their phones. Photo by Stanley Berman.

## Moss Monologue To Be Produced

**T**HEATER Q COLLECTIVE, WHICH “EXPLORES THE SPECTRUM OF gender, sexuality and romantic orientation,” has accepted Nancy Moss’s monologue “Elizabeth Banks Bryant, Spiderwoman” for its season. The collective sponsors a main stage and podcast.

Assistant curator of spiders at a Harvard zoology museum, Elizabeth spent her life labeling and preserving spiders. Nancy’s monologue speculates about the private side of her life. ■



the service should displace 4043 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> (600 fewer automobile round trips per day) while the ferry would emit 873 tons for a net daily saving of 3170 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The cost for planning, mobilization and operation of the two-year pilot program is projected to be \$9.7 million. The program would need \$8.5 million in subsidy — possibly from a federal grant — beyond the anticipated ticket revenue (averaging \$5 per person each way). For

# Mirabella Staff: Vaccinate or Test Weekly

by Steve Casey

WHEN IT COMES TO THE SAFETY OF RESIDENTS, GUESTS and fellow employees, in the face of the greatest pandemic in more than 100 years Mirabella employee whim has been the tail wagging the public health dog.

While offering Covid vaccinations to Mirabella residents brought a resounding and grateful 100% acceptance, the offer to all employees was not nearly as successful.

But in early August, Gov. Kate Brown announced that all “health care workers” – which Mirabella says is the entire staff – must get Covid vaccinations or be subject to weekly tests.

That “effectively neutralized” a contrary state law, according to The Oregonian newspaper.

At press time, employee vaccination was at 78%, according to Executive Director Sharon McCartney.

That’s a respectable number, but still means nearly one of every four employees is not protected.

The reasons for employees declining the shot are varied, in line with vaccination reluctance seen around the country, she said.

But as has been seen throughout the country, most reasons are based on bad information: fretting about fertility, fear of side effects, a perceived assault on “my personal freedom,” concerns that the vaccinations are still offered under “emergency” and not “final” authorization.

And while virtually every other business and industry in Oregon can require employees to be vaccinated against the pandemic, health care facilities – think hospitals, clinics, nursing homes – cannot.

That strikes many people as insane.

The very people any sentient person would most want to be vaccinated, for their own safety and for public health, are front-line medical personnel and emergency responders.

Oregon does provide for their protection by requiring health facility employers to offer vaccination to employees for free.

Then the law shoots itself in the foot.

In 1989, state lawmakers added a new section, prohibiting those same employers from requiring employees to be vaccinated.

Which means if an employee says “no” or simply doesn’t bother getting the shot, there is no recourse.

Why the law even applies to non-medical operations at Mirabella is unclear, but administration and parent corporation Pacific Retirement Services (PRS) insist it does.

A 22-year-old certified nursing assistant (CNA) who’s watched too much Fox News can disregard social

distancing and other precautions while off duty, then come to work and endanger an entire staff and patient population with no way for the employer to require that CNA to be vaccinated or be gone.

The law so clearly makes no sense that hospitals, physicians and other medical experts around the state clamored to reverse it, their efforts coming so fast that they are a bit of a moving target.

As 3550 went to press, five Oregon health systems had already announced they were requiring vaccinations of their staffs. Those five are PeaceHealth, Kaiser, Oregon Health & Science University, Legacy and the U.S. Veterans Administration.



*“Are you sure you wouldn’t rather just get the vaccine?”*

One legislator trying to toss out the offending section is state Rep. Lisa Reynolds (D-Portland), a pediatrician.

Employers “should be able to require the Covid-19 vaccine for people who come into contact with patients in all health care settings,” she told Willamette Week newspaper, citing vulnerability of medical patients and vaccine as a weapon to protect everyone’s health.

Art and Nancy Moss have asked Rep. Reynolds to visit Mirabella and talk with residents about what the law provides and how it should be changed. That invitation now is likely moot.

Sharon told 3550 that if the law is changed, she will mandate vaccinations for Mirabella employees.

Gov. Brown’s action follows that of President Joe Biden, who in late July ordered that all federal employees and anyone visiting federal facilities be vaccinated, but he avoided a mandate by leaving open an alternative that might also solve Oregon’s problem without new legislation.

The president said that any federal employee who did not receive a vaccination could still come to work – but only if he or she took frequent Covid tests and tested negative, masked up while at work, and maintained physical distance from others.

Biden aides said the policy’s goal is to make it so burdensome to be unvaccinated that getting the shot is the only practical option.

Health systems requiring mandates have adopted that plan as an end run around the draconian provisions of state law.

It follows similar requirements by New York and in Europe.

“Read the news,” President Biden said at a news conference. “You’ll see stories of unvaccinated patients in hospitals, as they’re lying in bed dying from Covid-19, they’re asking, ‘Doc, can I get the vaccine?’ The doctors have to say, ‘Sorry, it’s too late.’”

If unvaccinated, he said, “You present a problem to yourself, to your family and to those with whom you work.”

Mirabella is set to follow suit.

“We already test the unvaccinated ones in our licensed facility,” Sharon said. She hopes general staff testing will not be necessary because employees get the shots instead.

More to the point, aside from the second floor Health Center which clearly is a “health care facility,” does the prohibition on vaccination mandates even apply here?

There is a strong case that it doesn’t – that the law applies only to licensed or certified health care workers, not to other employees and certainly not outside of a health care setting, such as Mirabella’s Health Center.

That comes from a clear – albeit layman’s – reading of the statute itself.

The seeming ban on mandates comes in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) section 433.416, which says:

“A worker shall not be required as a condition of work to be immunized under this section, unless such immunization is otherwise required by federal or state law, rule or regulation.”

That seems plain enough, but it isn’t.

Does the entire staff of Mirabella, even a first-day server or a veteran maintenance tech or bus driver, fall “under this section” and thus become a “health care worker” who cannot be forced to get a shot?

ORS 433.407 seemingly says no.

There, subsection (3) says: “‘Worker’ means a person who is licensed or certified to provide health care.”

On top of that, is all of Mirabella actually a health facility?

Surely the Health Center is.

Sharon says all of Mirabella is a health care facility, although that is not clear.

“The entire building is considered health care through the state,” she told 3550, specifically “the State of Oregon, (with) whom we register as a CCRC, considers us a health care facility.”

Yet the statute would appear to say otherwise.

ORS 442.015 is a definitions statute. In relevant part, it lists six types of facilities that are “health care facilities” (hospitals, long term care facilities, ambulatory surgical centers, freestanding birth centers, outpatient dialysis facilities, extended stay centers.)

It continues in subsection (b) to say “‘Health care facility’ does not mean” ... “A residential facility licensed by the Department of Human Services or the Oregon Health Authority.”

Mirabella residents Wayne and Ginny Wiswell have researched the law. Ginny, who worked for the legislature of a different state, went looking for the legislative history of the 1989 added-on section; she found none, nor did Rep. Reynolds.

“The operative phrase is ‘licensed health care workers,’” asserts Wayne.

“For Mirabella, if an employee is not a ‘licensed health care worker,’ Mirabella can and should require a Covid vaccination as a condition of employment,” he said. “Dining staff and maintenance are not health care workers.”

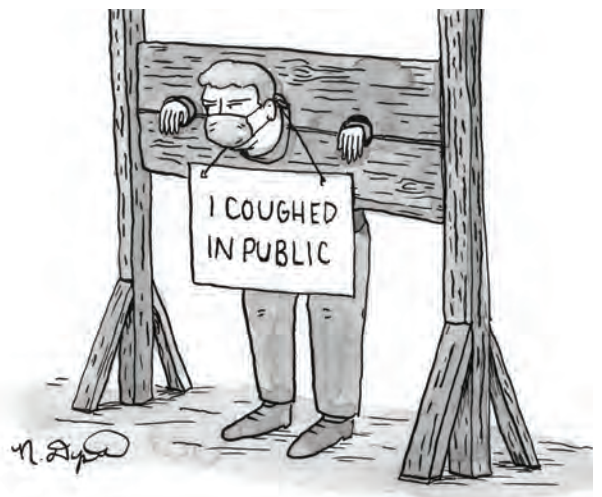
An explanation of PRS’ legal position on these questions would be helpful to resident understanding – and clearing up misunderstanding, if any.

Unfortunately, on this issue PRS has retreated into the bunker and won’t say.

While letting requests for the PRS legal department’s stance on whether Oregon law made every employee of Mirabella a “health care worker” go unanswered, that Medford department did send 3550’s written question and a 3550 voice mail to a legal department employee to Sharon.

Sharon said the PRS legal team would not be replying to 3550 inquiries because “they don’t provide legal advice to residents.”

3550 was not asking for advice. The magazine was asking for the corporation’s explanation to residents on how, if at all, that Oregon statute prohibited non-Health Center employees from mandatory vaccinations. ■



# Problem with Oregon Law

**M**IRABELLA RESIDENTS WAYNE AND GINNY WISWELL worried that employees here are not required to get vaccinated against Covid-19 and thus risk making fellow employees, residents and guests deathly sick.

They read the Oregon law that seemingly prohibits Mirabella from requiring all employees who do not have valid medical exemptions to get vaccinated. They believe it is being misinterpreted.

Ginny, who worked six years for the Nevada legislature doing research, put her skills to use.

Noting that the 1989 addition of a new subsection to Oregon Revised Statutes section 443.416 seems to make no public health sense, she went looking for the legislative history.

That would provide context for the legislation, including who was behind it.

She found nothing. It was as if the section was added in the dark of night.

Ginny Wiswell was not alone. She spoke with state Rep. Lisa Reynolds, who is also a medical doctor, and reports that Rep. Reynolds could get no legislative history either.

While the legislature did not develop its automated system for tracking bills until 1995 – six years after this law was passed – “if a legislator can’t get the history, God help the rest of us,” Ginny says.

She and Wayne drafted a letter to the health policy board of the Oregon Health Authority, to the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, to the Oregon Nurses Association, and to Reynolds and state Sen. Ginny Burdick. They made their letter available to 3550 and to anyone who wants to fashion similar correspondence.

That letter says: “We read with great interest that medical groups representing millions of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other health workers have called for mandatory vaccinations of all health personnel against the coronavirus, framing the move as a fundamental moral imperative. Indeed, with the recent surge of the COVID-19’s Delta variant causing break-through infections for vaccinated individuals and serious infections for the unvaccinated, why wouldn’t health care employers and personnel do everything in their power to ensure the populations they care for are safe?”

“Instead, ORS 433.416, enacted by the 1989 Legislature, does just the opposite – by preventing employers of health care workers from instituting vaccine requirements for their workers as a condition of employment.

“We support changing this law. This change is justified because the vaccine is the most effective tool to protect the health and safety of health care workers, their families, seniors, and the immuno-compromised from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 virus. And, the need to change the law is urgent because the virus is rapidly mutating and the variants are significantly more infectious.”

The Wiswells asked what each recipient was doing to change the law, what can be done before the legislature’s next “long session” in 2023, and what citizens can do to help.

The letters went out July 28. By press time shortly thereafter no replies had come in.

—Steve Casey



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## Committee to Accept Art Donations

**W**ORKING WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHARON McCartney, Mirabella's art committee has approved a process to "allow residents to gift artwork to Mirabella Portland."

Particularly useful to incoming residents who may be downsizing their art collections, the new policy involves a resident jury to approve submitted art; Sharon will then approve or veto their decision.

"It's been years in the making," committee chair Dan Hole says of the new process, adding, "We also hope to be involved in the selection process for public spaces."

The art committee has announced its fall programs. Jill Seager will be offering a craft class in sewing, knitting, crochet and needlepoint.

Starting in September, Cindy Lommasson will teach Chinese brush painting, Ron Mendonca will lead a class in kumihimo Japanese braiding and Yvonne Branchflower will lead a no-instruction watercolor painting group. Jill Seager will lead a mixed sewing, knitting, crocheting and needlepoint class.

Mary Zehrung will once again lead her successful "Quilts for Tots" program, which provides home-crafted quilts for children going into foster care. ■



## Crowded Sky Flaming Earth

**B**OB FRENCH'S MEMOIR "CROWDED SKY FLAMING EARTH" describes his experience as an air weapons controller in Vietnam in 1968.

Starting at Da Nang, then the "world's busiest airport," and moving to Dong Ha Combat Base, seven



Robert French researching his memoir

miles from the demilitarized zone (DMZ), Bob guided American aircraft and learned to protect himself from North Vietnamese rockets.

Sitting in front of their radar scopes, air weapons controllers like Bob managed the tanker-receiver hook-up, refueling American planes for their combat missions.

Bob has "fooled around with photography" since his teenage years; his photographs of planes and buildings — like his Dong Ha radar operations building with its "rocket deflection screen" on top, to protect against enemy fire — clarify his experiences for the reader.

Showing the camaraderie that existed between him and other airmen, over Kool-Aid or other beverages, "Crowded Sky Flaming Earth" expresses Bob's admiration of Misty, an American aircraft forward air controller who spent an extraordinary amount of time "airborne over enemy territory."

A reader who has been impressed by the near-misses that Bob experienced, "at least 50 rocket and mortar attacks on the base," must marvel at airmen confronting even greater danger.

Bob's book is in the Mirabella library.

—Nancy Moss

# Foundation Board Reverses Controversial Decisions

by Ed Parker

**A**NY DECISION ON WHETHER TO TURN THE NOW-SEPARATE Mirabella Portland Foundation charitable corporation into a department of Mirabella Portland is postponed until next year.

So decided the Mirabella Portland Foundation board of directors at its July 20 meeting, as directors agreed with resident recommendations and took steps to strengthen resident oversight.

Combining the two 501(c)(3) corporations has been called a merger. If approved, the Foundation as a separate corporation would disappear and the Foundation funds would be governed by the Mirabella Portland board.

Directors were responding to resident objections to the merger proposal.

The Mirabella Foundation board:

**First**, prioritized building resident trust and confidence by encouraging more resident participation and discussion before deciding how foundation money should be spent. In so doing, the board delayed consideration of a merger.

**Second**, reversed its earlier decision to spend money from the employee hardship fund to pay a consultant to address employee concerns about how Mirabella addresses racial and gender equity issues.

That project will go forward, but no Foundation funds will be used. Residents' monthly fees likely will pay for it, but their charitable gifts will not.

**Third**, reversed an earlier amendment to the policy governing the employee hardship fund, which would have allowed that "cultural assessment" expenditure. That has the effect of ending the hardship fund's mission creep and restoring the original policy, which requires that hardship funds be used to aid specific employees who are suffering unforeseen financial hardship.

**Fourth**, required that any proposed expenditure from the general (unrestricted) fund – other than for previously-approved administrative expenses – first be taken to the Foundation advisory committee for discussion and recommendation.

(The general fund includes some resident donations, but most additions come from investment earnings.)

"Since residents are both donors to and beneficiaries of foundation funds, maintaining their confidence in the management of foundation funds is essential," said Larry Levy, a Foundation board member.

The Foundation board includes up to three resident members, three staff members and three community

members. The community members all have relationships with Mirabella's parent corporation, Pacific Retirement Services.

Mirabella residents each year elect one resident board member to a three-year term on the Foundation board. The Mirabella Portland board has one resident board member.

Resident Steve Casey was a vocal opponent of the merger plan originally proposed. He argued it would reduce transparency and resident control of foundation decisions. He was particularly critical of last year's hardship fund decisions that were reversed at the July board meeting.

Residents' Association of Mirabella Portland (RAMP) vice-president Jim McGill said, "When merger discussions resume, I would propose the establishment of a new Mirabella Portland board committee with several resident members to oversee Foundation affairs and maintain donor confidence in fund management."

Steve, who was critical of the Foundation in the June issue of 3550, said he was pleased that previous mistakes were corrected. He also said that a Mirabella Portland

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*Mirabella administration confirmed that a merger would not happen unless Mirabella residents vote to approve it.*

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board foundation committee with several Mirabella resident members could possibly work as well for managing foundation funds as having a separate corporation.

"The issue isn't really merger or no-merger," Steve said. "It is foundation integrity and whether donors can have faith in that integrity. As former FBI director Robert Mueller observed, if you don't have integrity, 'nothing else matters.'"

"This pause from a march toward a vague merger provides an opportunity to take a hard look at how residents should be fully and immediately informed of actions of their Foundation and the Mirabella board, and to make sure as a condition of approving the merger that resident input carries strong clout," Steve said.

"No more closed meetings and minutes of those meetings being provided three months late. Without that assurance, the merger vote will fail. These pro-resident, pro-donor steps are modest and reasonable and should be part of whatever organizational structure is approved," he said.

Mirabella administration confirmed that a merger would not happen unless Mirabella residents vote to approve it. Mirabella executive director Sharon McCartney told 3550, "We want this decision to be mutually agreed upon

and accepted by staff and residents. While the benefits of the merger will strengthen the financial position of the foundation, we want to ensure donors feel confident in the decision and oversight.”

Whether or not a merger happens, no board or committee can spend foundation funds for any purpose other than what donors intended.

If a merger is proposed again, residents will have an opportunity to see whether post-merger commitments include sufficient transparency and resident input to gain their approval. Maintaining or expanding the participation and oversight that residents now have should reassure potential donors that their donations will be protected and properly used. ■

## Foundation Funds Summary

**T**HE MIRABELLA PORTLAND FOUNDATION HAS FOUR FUNDS FOR which foundation advisory committee members solicit donations. Here is a brief description of each:

### Cultural Enrichment Fund

This fund was established to sponsor artistic and cultural presentations and performances, and to provide equipment needed to support such events. If enough money is available in this fund, the Foundation board typically budgets \$10,000 per year for this purpose and delegates authority to the resident advisory committee to decide how to spend it. In practice, this is done in coordination with the RAMP programs committee and funds are used to supplement the programs committee budget.

### Employee Hardship Fund

This fund was established to assist Mirabella Portland employees who face unforeseen financial hardship. This fund helped employees during the Covid-19 pandemic and in other cases where bad things have happened to employees through no fault of their own.

The Foundation board typically delegates authority to the Mirabella executive director to distribute funds from this account with appropriate financial limits and board reporting requirements. For confidentiality reasons, residents do not learn which employees have been supported.

### Employee Scholarship Fund

This fund was established to assist Mirabella Portland employees who wish to improve their work skills, pursue a formal licensing, certification or degree program or generally further their education. Each year, the advisory committee requests a budget from the Foundation board, typically about \$20,000, for employee scholarships.

A scholarship subcommittee works closely with Mirabella’s human resources director to review employee applications and determine how to allocate the available funds. In past practice, when the requests from qualified applicants exceeded the funding available, the committee

solicited additional funds from residents and obtained board approval to increase the approved budget.

Scholarship funds are paid directly to educational institutions to pay for the employee’s tuition.

### Resident Assistance Fund

This fund was established to provide financial support to ensure that no resident will ever have to leave Mirabella Portland due to outliving his or her financial resources. Despite financial vetting on admission, residents face three risks: the longevity risk of outliving their money, the medical risk of unanticipated medical expenses and the financial risk of losing retirement funds in a disaster for which they are not to blame.

Even with good medical insurance, some couples may have difficulty paying for years of long-term care for a spouse in skilled nursing while their partner is also paying for the expenses of an independent living apartment. Refundable entrance fees are not available for this purpose because those funds come from the entrance fees of new residents after the original resident leaves Mirabella.

Money from the resident assistance fund can be loaned to residents (typically at 5% interest) with the refundable entrance fee used as collateral. When the borrowing power runs out, the fund can be used as a gift instead of a loan.

The Mirabella executive director, in consultation with the Foundation board in executive session, handles the arrangements. For confidentiality reasons, residents do not learn which residents have been supported.

### Other Funds

The Foundation has three additional funds: the general fund, used primarily for administrative expenses, which receives investment earnings and limited resident donations; the small and little used Health Center fund; and the medical transportation fund, which supports transportation to medical appointments for residents.

—Ed Parker

# Zidell Property in Holding Pattern

by Steve Casey

**A**S SUMMER WINDS DOWN THIS MONTH, SO TOO DOES A season of activity at Zidell Yards, marking an uncertain future for that rare 32-acre real estate blank canvas on the shore of the Willamette River, a stone's throw from Mirabella.

Once home to the late Sam Zidell's ship-dismantling business, later to a thriving barge-building operation, the Zidell site had been planned as the family's "legacy project," with housing, public spaces galore, office and technology and research buildings, continuation of the Greenway, a long-lusted-after completion of South Bond Avenue and a grocery store.

The plan, which won widespread praise in the community, did not fare so well with the City of Portland. Talks with the city collapsed in mid-2018 after fights over money.

After years of planning, and frustrated with the city, the Zidells have called it quits.

"Certainly, at some time that property will be developed," Charlene Zidell told 3550. "It won't be developed by us."

She did not rule out someday finding a development partner.

"Anything is possible," she said, "but we won't be doing it ourselves. We were doing the legacy project because we cared about what we were doing for the city. That piece of property now is just a business asset."

Charlene Zidell is director of corporate relations and communications for the family-owned Zidell Companies, which is run by her brother, Jay Zidell.

The South Waterfront site has been the center of Zidell Marine since 1946, launching its 277th and last barge in June 2017.

Since then, this choice riverfront property has been put to a variety of uses, none of which has a hint of permanence.

Through the summer, concerts and other gatherings were staged by Toby and Christina Fuller's company, Fuller Events. The former headquarters building of the Zidell Companies, renamed "Old Moody," became home to arts and community organizations. A sold-out summer camp series for kids was held across the street, on Zidell property



2021 Blues Festival grounds at Zidell Yards. Photo by Robert French.

next to the Emery apartments.

Zidell property has offered a temporary home to activities from bee-raising to batting cages, with access given to locals advancing some form of public good.

It is part of Charlene Zidell's vision for contributing to the life of Portland.

"If somebody comes and they need help, we have this land sitting there," she said. "If there is something we can do that helps communities of the city, why would we not do that?"

It was the series of events produced by Toby and Christina Fuller that drew the most attention – and the most apprehension.

After a long flirtation with entertainment giant Live Nation, which pre-Covid was set to build a 10,000-seat outdoor concert venue on the property, Zidell gave Fuller Events a one-season lease on what came to be called The Lot, carved from the larger Zidell Yards.

Concert goers sat in small “pods,” with picket fences on three sides, offering private, socially distanced boxes of two, four or six seats each, conforming the crowd size to Covid restrictions.

After several small events, the acid test for the neighborhood came with the Fourth of July weekend presentation of the annual Blues Festival, for which the Fullers obtained a noise variance from the city.

Neighbors, wary of outdoor concerts in the wake of a disastrous Project Pabst series of several years ago and of Live Nation’s international reputation for cavalier dismissal of noise complaints, were on edge.

Indeed, the e-Current newsletter of South Waterfront Community Relations provided names and phone numbers of people to contact if the noise got out of hand.

But by most accounts, the Fuller-produced Blues Festival was an excellent event with very few noise issues.

Mirabella residents reported their experiences to 3550:

“My unit, 1903, faces directly north,” wrote Arletha Ryan. “I am pleased that Charlene is able to make use of the Yards,” she said, and “I am delighted that entertainers have an outdoor venue in which to perform. I am happy that families and individuals have a live performance to attend.

“I chose this locale because I wanted to be where there was action and vitality,” Arletha wrote, “otherwise I would have chosen to locate in the suburbs.”

Bob Geddes reported, “I heard no significant or disturbing sound from the festival venue, even when standing on my northeast-facing deck.”

“We have been happily surprised by how little the Blues Festival impacted us,” wrote Sue and Paul Knoll. “We are pleased the organizers kept to the ending time of 10 p.m.”

John Toppel, while conceding that the Blues Fest noise level was a bit higher on its closing day, said, “I think we are collectively in a tizzy over nothing. The people on the south side have nothing to fear, except for the highway. If people on the north side close their windows the issue is moot, in my opinion.”

Richard and Lynda Mounts attended the event. “Waterfront Blues Festival is a great way to begin the return to normal life,” Lynda wrote. “A real treat.”

Still, there were issues.

Lisa Andrus-Rivera reports that “I do find the constant drumming somewhat oppressive and have to put in earplugs.”

Bob French, who lives in a north-facing apartment on the 22nd floor, directly facing the concert venue, said the first three days of the festival “annoyed me not in the least.”

Then came the last day.

“When the afternoon concert came, I sensed a thump, thump, thump,” Bob said. “I didn’t hear anything, mind you, I felt it,” and “my friendly feelings towards the first three days of the festival ended right then.”

While residents were anxious about inconvenience, officials at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) were more concerned with patient healing and student learning.

OHSU owns the Rood Family Pavilion, housing the Ronald McDonald House for cancer patients. It is the closest non-Zidell residential building to the concert stage. OHSU also uses the Robertson Life Sciences Building



“I’m just happy things are getting back to normal.”

(RSLB) north of Zidell property for health and science education and research.

Would cancer kids and future doctors be tormented by the noise?

“While I haven’t been fully briefed, there were some patients who were bothered by the music at the Ronald McDonald House and I heard the sound levels were quite high at the RLSB,” reports the university’s director of local relations, Michael Harrison.

While the Fullers held only a one-season lease, they may continue to play a role on the Zidell property.

“They have done an amazing job with that venue. and they took a real risk,” Charlene Zidell told 3550. “They are an amazing partner and community asset.” ■



Photo by Ron Mendonca

**Stan and Reese Berman**

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by Priscilla Cowell

REESE AND STAN BERMAN HAVE ALWAYS FOLLOWED THEIR passion to be community builders. In 1961 they also became pioneers.

John Kennedy was president and had just founded the Peace Corps. "Boston was a hot bed of Peace Corps interest," Stan remembers. The day after Stan took the New York State bar exam he and Reese joined a group of 36 Peace Corps volunteers to begin training at the Harvard Business School campus. They would be the first Peace Corps group going to Nigeria and only the third group going anywhere.

As Stan would not know the results of the bar exam, one of the toughest in the country, for some months, he packed up his law books to send to their Nigeria site in case he had failed. "He passed," says Reese with a smile.

"But the other Stan Berman was really mad," Stan adds with his dry wit.

## Resident Profile

### Stan and Reese Berman: Pioneers and Community Builders

After further training in teacher-training college in Kono, the largest city in Islamic northern Nigeria, they settled in a small town called Bichi. Stan taught Nigerian history, staying a page ahead of the students, and Reese, with no training, taught English as a second language to high school students.

Navigating Nigeria's one-lane roads was dicey. An American friend driving the Bermans in a Land Rover and the British driver of an oncoming car met head-on and instinctively both turned to the same edge of the road. They crashed, rolled over, and landed upside down in a culvert. Reese and the friend escaped unhurt through a window, but Stan emerged from under water with a very bloodied face. Picked up by a passing lorry, Stan says, "I was taken to a semi-drunk British doctor who sewed up around my eye with no anesthesia. I still have the scar."

After meeting in their hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, Reese and Stan began dating when at Smith and Amherst. They were married and moved to Boston for Stan's third year at Harvard law school. Reese spent her senior year at Wellesley, completing a diploma from Smith. Post-Peace Corps they moved to Brooklyn for six years, with Stan beginning his career of exclusively representing labor

unions in his Manhattan law practice and Reese learning library science at Pratt Institute.

Their children were born in Brooklyn. When time came to move to the suburbs the Bermans followed up on a friend's suggestion that they explore Armonk in Westchester County, and decided to settle there. Reese began her 21-year career as a middle school librarian at the school their children would attend, moving from card catalog to digital data as technology advanced. Stan had a 90-minute commute to his office by car and train, which he used to complete the daily crossword puzzle.

The Bermans were ski enthusiasts, taking ski trips to Utah, Colorado, Vermont and British Columbia during school holidays. They also enjoyed biking and hiking adventures, travel in Europe, South America and Mexico, a safari to Kenya and Tanzania, and 20 years of trips to the Oregon coast. When their two granddaughters graduated from high school each was offered a trip with Stan and Reese to a country of her choice. They opted for Brazil and Indonesia.

Reese and Stan retired the same year, ushering in for Reese a challenging and productive career in the politics of the town of North Castle, which includes the hamlet of Armonk. Already well-known in the community because of her school librarian position, she won a four-year seat on the North Castle council. "I soon realized the head of the Town Council, or supervisor, who had been entrenched in the office for 44 years, needed to be replaced," says Reese. "I decided to challenge him."

While Stan shopped and cooked and helped with computer spreadsheets of voters and parents of students she had known at school, Reese was free to attend meetings, campaign door-to-door and pass out Reese's Pieces candy.

Mirabella residents Gene and Naomi Matusow, who moved to Mirabella after the Bermans' glowing recommendation, were close friends of the Bermans in Armonk. "They were very involved in my election," Reese recalls. She won the race, a 2-year term as supervisor. Two years later she won another term. Then, when the 2008 financial downturn happened, says Reese, "I decided that worrying about only money issues for two years would not be for me."

Reese remembers that her proudest achievements as supervisor of North Castle involved building sewer lines, establishing zoning, creating a town manager position and serving as chair of the Westchester County Global Task

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*(see Berman p. 16)*

*(from Berman p. 15)*

Force. "The latter was a big deal," she says, "and took a lot of work."

Yearning for urban life, the Bermans decamped to the



Stan and Reese Berman with their dog Bichi, named after the town in Nigeria where they were staying. Bichi was a lucky dog who got to come home with them when they returned to the U.S. from their Peace Corps assignment.

a high school student with a home dark room, by taking photos for the Mirabella resident directory and 3550. They both joined the earthquake preparedness mobile team.

Reese has been nominated to be vice-president of the Resident Association of Mirabella Portland (RAMP) and Stan to serve on the Mirabella Portland Foundation board.

"I have met informed, interesting and involved residents here, and the administration is warm, inviting and communicative," Reese declares. "And we have found the services and staff excellent," Stan adds. Going carless, they both find the LEED platinum design of Mirabella and the streetcar access very important to them in reducing their carbon footprint.

Stan and Reese are determined to contribute mentally and physically to their new community as long as they can. "I come from a very long-lived family," says Reese, "and I expect to be around for a long time." ■

under-Beacon Hill area of Boston where they enjoyed the city and being part of their granddaughters' life in nearby Lexington. They made many friends while being active in Beacon Hill Village, part of a nationwide Village Movement, which established a safety net of social and cultural events, trips, hikes and information for people who wanted to age in their own homes instead of moving to a retirement community.

After five years in Boston, Reese and Stan moved west to Mirabella, which they had been eyeing for years. They arrived six months before the isolation of Covid set in.

Once again, they became involved in building their new community. Reese joined the green, welcoming, and wellness/fitness committees and became advertising manager for 3550. Stan served as secretary of the foundation advisory committee and shared his expertise in photography, begun as



Reese Berman introducing herself to a Nigerian official.



# The Photographic World of Black & White

by Robert French

**B**LACK & WHITE IMAGERY IS CONSIDERED BY SOME AS PHOTOGRAPHY IN ITS PUREST FORM. IMAGES IN B&W ARE MORE impressive when they emphasize strong elements of composition, or shapes of objects, or patterns, textures, or sharp tonal contrasts. For certain scenes or subjects, color can be distracting and is not always necessary to create an appealing image. Here are a few of my photographs I have processed into the colorless realm of black & white.



Old garage, Wheeler County, Ore.



Cobblestone street, Bergen, Norway



Man in Elizabeth Caruthers Park, Portland



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Old wood pilings, Columbia River, Washington State



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The Thunderbirds, U.S. Air Force air demonstration squadron



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Abandoned 1950 Buick, Bartow County, Ga.



American WWII cemetery, Luxembourg

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Bicyclist and shadow, Bond Ave., Portland

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Fish market, Bangkok, Thailand

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Pelican, Singapore

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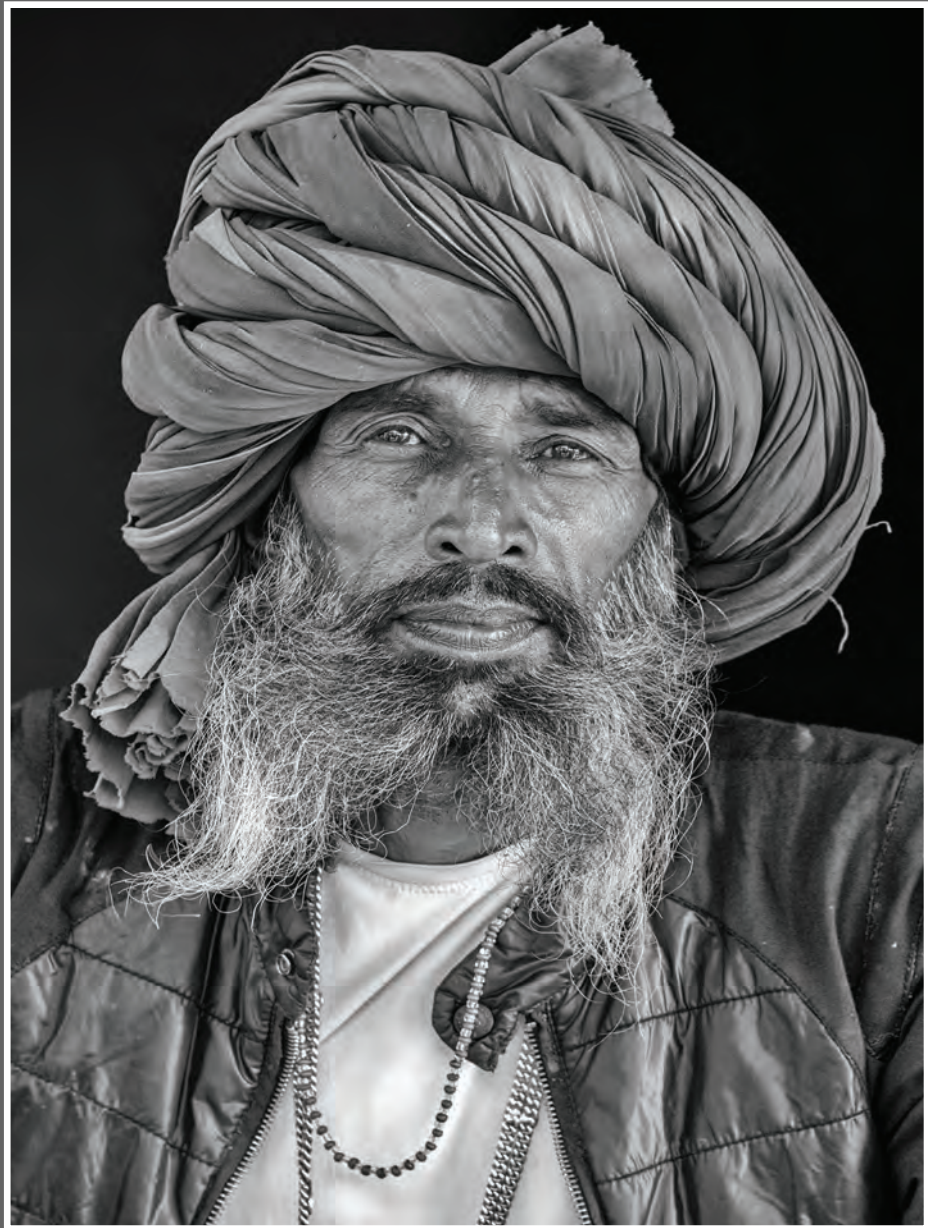
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Trees and pond, central Thailand



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Woman in the medina quarter, Fez, Morocco



Portrait of man in western India



Aerial view of mountains, British Columbia, Canada

IF THEY ANSWERED THE PHONE, SHE WOULD CANCEL THE INTERVIEW. If they didn't answer she would go "for the experience of interviewing," she said.

She went. She was offered the job she had mistakenly applied for. Brittany Horn, lead concierge, and Mirabella apparently had fate or karma bringing them together.

Six years ago, Brittany applied for a food service position in what she thought was the restaurant of an apartment building. Then she googled the name of the building: Mirabella. Arrrrgh! The restaurant was in a retirement community. She had told herself she would never work in one again after an off-putting experience in such a job in such a place in Vancouver, Washington, her hometown.

But as a server in Aria East, Brittany found there were retirement communities and then there was Mirabella. Because of this job, two serendipitous happenings influenced the trajectory of her life: She was promoted to a job she really likes and she met the love of her life.

Serendipity number one: Doing food service, she was particularly helpful to a resident couple. After they passed away within a short time of each other, their children were so appreciative of Brittany's kindness, they got to know her. When the grandson and Brittany met, Brittany knew he was "the one," even though she was in a relationship at the time.

Serendipity number two. At the suggestion of her food service managers, Brittany applied for a different job at Mirabella. She wasn't chosen, but the successful applicant's position needed to be filled. Brittany was the perfect choice to be daytime concierge and eventually lead concierge.

This is the job to which the term multitasking doesn't begin to do justice. Just watching wears one out. The phone at her desk rings while she's examining something on one of the three computer screens. Two residents, or more, stand at the desk waiting to ask about late newspaper delivery, or leave a document for faxing, or more. Visitors' health screening equipment in the outer lobby beeps a rejection and she must watch that the person doesn't slip in anyway with several residents returning from their morning walk. FedEx, UPS, dry cleaners, florists, grocery drop-offs and contractors come and go. She knows who some are and can be let in; others wait to be screened.

Uh-oh. Is that someone attempting to bathe in the water feature? She runs out to thwart the bather. She has to say no to a young couple she allows into the inner lobby. Sorry, this isn't just a regular apartment building that gives tours. Oops. Cleanup needed in elevator 2; someone's dog couldn't wait. Cleanups, at least, are not in her job description.

Witness her ability even as a high school senior to manage a problem that might unglue someone else. She was dressed in a button-down shirt and blazer, walking

toward school to give a presentation on a current world issue. Students' appearance in business attire was part of their grade, and the whole exercise a requirement for graduation. So as Brittany says, "It was quite a big deal."

A large bird flew over, and as birds will, dropped a large poo. The poo landed right on her chest. Much as she tried to clean it, there was no disguising what had happened. So, when her turn came, she stood in front of her class and said, "Hi, I'm Brittany, and yes a bird just pooped right down my chest, but more importantly let's talk about current world issues."

She believes no one will laugh at you if you can laugh at yourself first.

As lead concierge, Brittany has what one might call her own tasks as well as minding everything else. She reserves meeting room use and schedules all the other concierge shifts. She trains new concierge hires and reviews all concierge job performance with her boss, Megan Huston.

## Staff Profile: Brittany Horn Miss Multitasker

Brittany likes to keep busy, she says. Wish granted.

The early shift suits her, giving her, as she says, "the whole day to do things." Taking a nap, perhaps, someone else might think.

She graduated from high school at age 17 with no specific educational goals and worried that college costs would be a burden.

Experiences and opportunity at Mirabella have shown Brittany a path to a bright future, particularly the Pacific Retirement Services (PRS) Leadership Academy. To apply, she needed the recommendation of her manager, Megan, and one other administrator.

The program was launched by PRS in 2017. The year-long course, which focuses on management, has about 12 participants and is free of charge to them. It's taught by Sustainable Leadership Consultants, whose founder, John Bowling, lives in Jacksonville, Oregon.

For Brittany's group the classes were online until July, when she and all participants flew to Medford, PRS headquarters, where the classes were always held before Covid. She and her fellow students and the instructors finally met in person.

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(see Horn p. 24)

Photo by Robert French



**Brittany Horn**

*(from Horn p. 22)*

Among other assignments, the participants review articles on topics pertinent to management and becoming successful, improved leaders. Another exercise requires a participant and a partner to each set a particular personal job performance goal for the coming month and track each other's progress. Brittany says the course "looks very good on a resume."

She likes the classes and the learning challenges. She likes PRS and the prospects for advancement, but at the same time she is not keen on moving away from the Portland area.

Family and family activities are very important to her. She loves to go camping with her family. She likes being outdoors in that environment, particularly fishing and swimming.



Brittany about age four

As a youngster she took piano lessons but didn't apply herself. As an older teen she began playing classical music. Beethoven is her favorite. She hopes to have a piano eventually where she lives, but until then she plays at her parents' house on the piano she learned on.

Perhaps it's dexterity in playing Beethoven that led Brittany to being good at video games. She started playing them two years ago, picked up the technique quickly and impresses her boyfriend's friends. She and her boyfriend ("the one") hope to get married in a couple of years, have a house with a huge garden and a dog. She had a cat for 18 years, loves them, but wants a dog.

Brittany would love to travel, especially to four places: Iceland, New Zealand, Greece and Italy. Some of her plans and dreams keep her close to home. Others take her far and wide. We wish her the best in all of them. ■



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# Remember the Dahlias?

by Pamela Lindholm-Levy

WHEN SEPTEMBERISTAS (MIRABELLA'S FIRST RESIDENTS) ARRIVED IN September of 2010, there was an unforgettable sight waiting for them northeast of the building. A field of dahlias was in full bloom.

Old House Dahlias had established a home in part of the empty lot stretching toward the river from S. Curry Street and S. River Parkway.

Mirabella residents and other admirers could choose from 40 varieties and get cut flowers fresh out of the field at the height of their season.

Dahlias range from the blackest red, called Rip City to honor the Portland Trail Blazers basketball team, to the whitest white and almost everything in between except blue. Dahlias may have stripes, or splashes of color, or simply solid color. Some have pointy petals; some have rounded petals.

Founder Mark Harvey rented the land and had five seasons there, from 2009 to 2013.

And then he had to leave.

Mark got started with dahlias when he added them to his typical home garden at his vintage house in southeast Portland. He found he had a way with them. He grew more and more at home and on some land near the town of Corbett on the Old Columbia River Highway.

Cut flowers from his gardens were popular at grocery store floral counters. Choosing the business name Old House Dahlias paid tribute to Mark's beginning in the dahlia business. When he found expansion space in the South Waterfront the name remained the same.

The shovelful of soil that Mark initially turned over in

South Waterfront was stony and alkaline. How could this be? Western Oregon soil is acid. That's how so many growing things we love flourish: rhododendrons, azaleas, blueberries, camellias, hydrangeas. And dahlias.

But years as industrial wasteland, eventually mostly abandoned, had rendered the South Waterfront a stranger to its native soil. He used some of the many rocks he had to remove from this new garden to spell out Old House Dahlias in a form visible to high-rise residents. Just as well Mirabella had no residents yet when Mark and a buddy brought up seven loads of aged cow manure from a dairy in Aurora to improve the soil.

Commercial dahlia growers like Mark dig most of the tubers – they are not bulbs, and some could almost be mistaken for sweet potatoes – in the late fall and store them over winter for replanting in spring.

One cold, rainy November in the South Waterfront field, Mark and his buddy were digging tubers and feeling the weather. A Mirabella resident named Catherine (Mark doesn't remember her last name) came down to the garden and asked whether they would like some coffee. Would they? Shortly, Catherine returned with a thermos for each. And the coffee had been spiked with Irish Cream.

When the owner of the property gave a termination notice, Mark knew his last season in Portland would be 2013. The Willamette Valley had become too expensive.

Mark found an old house on the coast with a red barn and an insulated storage and shipping center. On these 14 acres in the Pleasant Valley section on U.S. 101 south of Tillamook, he cultivates more than 200 varieties and ships tubers to every state and many European countries. The Old House Dahlias website shows Mark's world today. ■



Photo of dahlia garden in October 2010 by Bob Cronk.

# Keeping Up Appearances

by Pamela Lindholm-Levy

“KEEPING UP APPEARANCES” WAS THE NAME OF ONE OF those silly but watchable BBC series that ran for about five years in the early 1990s. Fitting to this article was the main character’s name, Hyacinth.

Caruthers Park plantings and those along the South Waterfront Greenway are kept up well by Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R). True or False? False. Our friends and neighbors are doing what PP&R might be doing if it had enough funds.

Three years ago, on a hot August day, PP&R horticulturist Josh Kenaston was working alone in Caruthers Park. South Waterfront resident Marti Yoder stopped to talk. Yes, he always worked alone there, in the greenway and in the seven other southwest Portland parks he was managing. Marti asked if he would like help. He was thrilled at the prospect. Marti called Josh’s boss in PP&R, who told her Josh was doing the best he could.

This was the start of the volunteer program Marti manages. She is a retiree and volunteer who lives with her husband in the Ella. She believes in community and thrives wherever she is planted.

Marti recruited four people at first. She placed a request for more in the South Waterfront newsletter. Now, about 20 people in the neighborhood work under Josh’s guidance and supervision. Two Mirabella residents who volunteer are Neil Sherwood and Janet Schmitt. There’s always room for more.

Potential volunteers first meet with Marti, who makes sure they can physically handle the work safely – kneeling, bending, and balance, for example – and that they understand the scope of the work and its needs. They should already know the difference between most weeds and, say, an Oregon grape plant. (For extra credit, its scientific name is *Mahonia aquifolium*.) Once accepted, volunteers can choose park or greenway and size of area they want and are able to manage. Neil was inspired to take on the work after talking with a woman he saw pulling weeds. Learning she was a volunteer, he signed up. He likes to see

things cared for as if it were his own backyard, perhaps not exactly like the large one he had for many years in Salem. The payoff is “when things look good,” he says. His section of the greenway stretches from the ramp to the northern perimeter.

Another garden volunteer opportunity would be to join the Mirabella Deadheaders, who prune roses at the International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park. Mirabella resident Naomi Matusow leads this group, and although the season is ending, she would be happy to add more rose lovers to this working party.

Back in the South Waterfront, David Loftus and Carole Barkley, a couple who live in the Matisse, were two of the original four volunteers, and have worked in Caruthers Park since then. They had been with the group Friends of South Park Blocks, weeding, deadheading roses, and picking up trash in the

space between the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Historical Society when they lived in that neighborhood.

Carole does more in the north end of Caruthers Park: picking up trash and cigarette butts, and she has done pruning and weeding. David chose to tackle the bioswale, the sunken area, in the southwest corner and sometimes the one in the southeast corner. For one thing, he likes to be in the shade of the buildings on the south side of Gaines Street. He spends more time in late spring and early summer before the weeds go to seed and blackberry vines (they’re everywhere) put out a lot of runners. Little work is required from late fall through winter in either the park or the greenway.

In the bioswales Carole has seen live rodents, and David once found the flattened, desiccated remains of a small-sized creature. Dog or cat, perhaps. He once found trash and other evidence someone had slept out under trees on the west edge of the park. David reports encountering “a dispiriting amount of dog poop in the bioswales.” Owners are letting their dogs run loose there, which is not allowed.

Neil finds too much dog poop but little trash, and never anything weird or valuable.

In both the park and greenway, volunteers leave piles of pruned and weeded debris for another PP&R employee



Neil Sherwood working in the greenway.  
Photo by Ron Mendonca.

and Josh to cart away. Given the scope of Josh's responsibility, this may not happen as frequently as the volunteers and residents might like. Park and greenway users sometimes kick the piles back into the beds or bioswales, which is frustrating to volunteers and creates more work to remove it.

In its beginning, the volunteer effort tried to be more group – and schedule – oriented, but that proved difficult given the other commitments and interests, travel plans and need for flexibility of this band of retirees. To accommodate these “people of a certain age,” as Marti describes them, volunteers can work at their own pace and schedule. Once or twice, especially during a seasonal change, the group may be called upon by Josh to work on a single project. And she calls the current team of volunteers industrious and committed.

During 2020 and Covid, volunteers wore masks and carried on their assignments as usual.

As stretched as Josh is, he is always available to answer questions from volunteers, forwarded, with photos, by Marti. Is this a weed? Should I cut this shrub back now? Josh has given group workshops in the fall, especially on the timing of pruning. “No, no, not just before flowering.” And volunteers are not asked to climb and prune trees. Marti assures everyone that Josh appreciates them more than they know. “He is a good guy,” Marti says.

Some volunteers still have gloves and shears and perhaps other garden tools saved over from home ownership. Josh occasionally gives extras to Marti for the volunteers. Neil had saved no garden tools, so was given a



The Mirabella Deadheaders at the International Rose Test Garden. Members from right to left: Ellen Macke, Margaret Toppel, Sandy Foreman, Lynda Mounts, Regina Chan and Naomi Matusow.

pair of clippers. A great help is his purchase of a rechargeable hand tool that resembles a mini-hedge trimmer.

In her daily walks through the park and along the greenway, Marti sees that she has created a dedicated and necessary volunteer group. To join it email [marti.yoder@gmail.com](mailto:marti.yoder@gmail.com). She would be, like Josh, thrilled. ■



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# Resident Committees Energized

by Nancy Moss

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR. WITH COVID RESTRICTIONS RELAXING, Mirabella's resident committees have resumed in-person meetings after more than a year of meeting electronically on Zoom. Committees are looking for volunteers to expand their activities.

## Programs Committee

Programs committee chair Mikki Lipsey says, "the more residents who help out, the more shows we can present." She welcomes suggestions for possible performers. Mikki will chair the programs committee for one more year if she has a secretary to help her; she needs a volunteer.

Walter Greizerstein, who has played the violin for 80 years and coordinates some of the musical programs, has Portland contacts with chamber music, choirs, a youth orchestra and jazz musicians. He is looking for resident tips for country music, folk music and local bands.

Mirabella can showcase talents of its own, such as Gene Matusow's guitar and vocal country music, dining room supervisor Erin Myrup's opera singing and Mirabella performances, but Portland offers a wider range of performers like Blue Cedars, a guitar, cello and voice trio on the programs committee planning list.

Residents may turn off channel 981, come to Willamette Hall and enjoy live performances.

## Building and Grounds Committee

Covering a diverse array of topics, Mirabella's building and grounds committee (B&G) functions through its subcommittees. In a recent meeting when a resident brought up the haphazard arrangement of furniture on the fifth-floor terrace, committee chair John Green appointed

an ad hoc committee to investigate the situation and report back in a future meeting.

Also in a recent meeting, resident Ellen Macke asked Director of Facility Services Brian Wycoff about fire drills. When the fire alarm sounded on her floor, Ellen said, several residents had milled around, uncertain as to what to do. This particular occasion turned out to be a false alarm, but Ellen wondered if Mirabella ever held fire drills.

It had been six years, RAMP president Barbara Gaines said, since Mirabella had a fire drill. Brian explained that the problem lay in the recorded fire alarm message, which calls for evacuation from the building, advice not appropriate for frail people in a high-rise building.

Brian recently got verbal approval during a state fire marshal inspection, but further City of Portland bureaucratic processes must be followed to change the message. Mirabella emergency preparedness subcommittee (MEPS) chair Paul Knoll is working with Mirabella administration to get the issue resolved.

Devoting its energies mostly to earthquake preparedness, MEPS has

revised the Emergency Preparedness Guide, which can be found in the RAMP/emergency preparedness pages on the Miranet. It has run radio drills simulating an emergency and prepared demonstrations of survival techniques, shown over channel 981.

Paul said in a later conversation that he needs more volunteers for the mobile team, which goes to common areas to look for residents who are not in their apartment after an emergency. He also needs volunteers for a water crew, to "organize the acquisition and distribution of water" after an emergency. Although residents should be

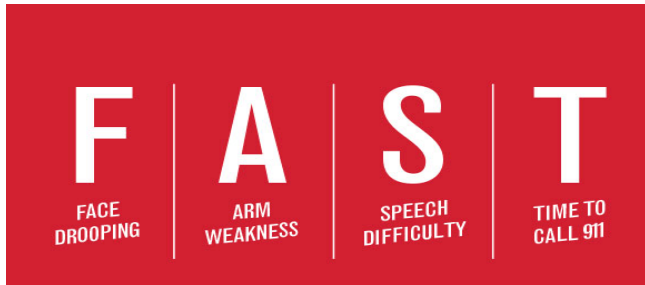


Don Marshall as slaveholder Jefferson Davis and Mikki Lipsey as abolitionist Frances Seward in the Mirabella Players performance of Nancy Moss's play "Duet." Photo by Ron Mendonca.

storing supplies on their own, a major earthquake might require committee action to provide enough water for residents.

John Block, co-chair of the green subcommittee, reported that over 26,000 refundable bottles had been diverted from landfill, resulting in \$2,000 being added to the employee scholarship fund.

RAMP vice-president Jim McGill reported that John Green would be retiring as chair and B&G would need new leadership.



*Getting stroke medication fast can prevent or minimize long-term disability. Call 911 immediately when symptoms occur.*

### Health Committee

The resident health advisory committee (RHAC), chaired by John Block, is tasked with informing residents about health care and advising Mirabella administration with respect to health matters. At a recent meeting, members

discussed the superiority of chlorine bleach products for norovirus protection.

They also discussed how to identify stroke symptoms and the importance of an immediate 911 call so the stroke patient can get stroke medicine administered in time to prevent long-term damage. The committee emphasized the importance of calling 911 on a Mirabella phone rather than a mobile phone because the land line phone also alerts Mirabella staff to help the patient and speed the emergency responders' access to the patient's apartment. Finally, the committee discussed the risk to residents with lowered immunity if employees are no longer required to wear masks.

Acting as a watchdog on health issues, Mirabella's health committee is looking for volunteers and especially values members with a medical background.

### Art Committee

Art committee chair Dan Hole has reactivated that committee (see separate story on page 9), but he is looking for a replacement as chair so he can have more time to teach classes himself.

Participation in RAMP committees, whether shelving books in the library or planning radio drills, can help the community and enrich residents' experience. From Art to Workshop, these committees form the backbone of life at Mirabella. Relaxation of Covid restrictions gives them a renewed chance to flourish. ■

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# Floating Homes on the Willamette

by Pete Swan

THE DAYS WHEN LIVING ON A HOUSEBOAT WAS CONSIDERED rather daring, almost bohemian, are long past. Today, such residences are called floating homes, have every amenity, and could cost close to a million dollars.

There are two floating home communities on our part of the Willamette River, one south of Willamette Park on the west side and a larger one, called the Oregon Yacht Club (OYC), on the east side near Oaks Bottom, north of the Sellwood Bridge.

A Mirabella resident who moved here in late June, Annie Roberts, lived – first as a renter, then as a homeowner – at OYC for 10 years.

The people owning the homes are everyday folks with one important exception: they love life on the river. Most would never go back to the suburbs or to city living. Floating homes are different from regular homes at every point from initial construction to settled-in barbecuing on the riverside deck.

Marc Even, the affable owner of the floating-home yard called Even Construction, has built more than 50 of these residences. His facility in Warren – 21 miles northwest of downtown on the Multnomah Channel at the mouth of the Willamette River – had four floating homes under construction in June. One was almost completed: appliances were being installed, and interior painting was under way. A second was almost fully framed with roof trusses soon to be installed. Two more had their log foundations and were ready for decking.

Start-to-finish construction time ranges from eight to 12 months, only slightly longer than the time to build a comparable-square-footage home on dry land. Even uses an engineer and an architect, so each design is aligned with the customer's desires and needs. His yard typically uses six regular employees and a dozen subcontractor personnel.

The homes must be within the height-to-width ratio of 75% and must have fore-and-aft decks at least two feet wide for maintenance and fire evacuation. Finished homes have 14 to 16 inches of freeboard (clearance above the water). A 10-year warranty for workmanship and materials is given with every home.

Even has used (and likes) hollow concrete pontoons, but fabricating and launching full-size pontoons is very expensive – it can add up to \$100,000 to the cost – so he



Neighbors watch new home approach. Photo by Stanley Berman.

will only use concrete again when he can source 8-foot-long modules that can be joined together on the water. The more conventional foundations are constructed of carefully selected logs. Morticed notches are added so that I-beams, called stringers, can be seated and bolted on across the logs. These stabilize the logs so they cannot roll or shift. The deck is then attached to the stringers.

To ensure complete levelness, additional floatation is required. Even uses Styrofoam blocks wrapped in gasoline-proof sheathing to keep gasoline spills from dissolving the Styrofoam. A diver precision-emplaces them.

Many of Even's homes have two stories; width and length obviously must conform to slip dimensions at the destination marina. Gas-fueled stoves are standard and gas fireplaces are optional. Fire codes are carefully

followed. Each home must have a sewage holding tank and a pump for offloading to the marina's system. At the client's option (subject to moorage rules), river-facing decks

paddle-boarder wearing ear buds was leisurely moving down the middle of the channel. The skipper repeatedly blew his whistle to no avail. The tug slowed to mere steer-



*New floating home arriving at its dock. Photo by Stanley Berman.*

can be extended for kayak, canoe and sporting equipment storage and/or for deck chairs.

Once completed, the home must be delivered by a push tug. Even Construction uses a veteran tugboatman named Clark Caffall. Caffall, whose family has long been involved in river transportation, owns four tugs, two of which other family members built in the sixties. He uses either the 70-foot and 1300-horse-power Christie or the 45-foot and 850-horse-power Ramona III for moving floating homes.

Capt. Caffall checks tides and weather; he will not set out in fog, and, due to the homes' high sail areas, he will not attempt a voyage if winds are forecast at 12 mph or more. The navigation bridges on push tugs can be as much as 35 feet above the water so the skipper can see over the home.

The flotilla moves at three knots. Going from Even's yard to Sellwood can take from 10 to 14 hours, requiring a lay-up along the way. Caffall sometimes pilots the tug alone, but uses one or two crewmen and an additional tiny tug (a "work skiff") during the delicate process of insertion into the homeowner's slip.

Caffall said his most memorable navigational encounter came when he was pushing a crane barge and a

ageway, and his deckhand finally had to throw chunks of two-by-fours to get the man's attention. When the startled man looked up and saw the end of the crane above him, his eyes were reported to be "as large as silver dollars."

Title to the floating home passes when it is attached to the new owner's slip. During transit, the home is covered by the tug's marine insurance.

Once a floating home is installed or purchased, the homeowner enjoys a lifestyle quite different from most urban living.

When Annie came west from Minnesota, a connection at work suggested moving to OYC. Annie says she has always been a water person. She especially enjoyed using her small sailboat and a kayak that she moored at her floating home. Her favorite memories of that life were the Tuesday potlucks and the friendly people who became lifelong friends.

Kelly Holtz is the rear commodore (immediate past president) of OYC, a 39-slip moorage that was incorporated in

*(see Floating Homes p. 32)*

*(from Floating Homes p. 32)*

1900. In her high school years, Kelly lived in her parents' floating home at OYC. She and her husband, Andrew, had a home built by Even Construction in 2014. Their home is 2500 square feet, just slightly more than average for this moorage. She says they love the life, and added if she ever leaves, it will be "feet first."

When asked if there were any negatives of floating home life, she mentioned getting groceries down the sometimes-steep gangway to the slips, getting garbage up to the community dumpster, higher insurance premiums and the fact that, on very warm days, there is not enough shade. That said, the Holtzes have two attractive trees and a water feature on the float off their river-facing deck.

Many residents own boats (typically 16- to 20-foot runabouts) or kayaks. They berth them adjacent to their homes or at their "tender" across the walkway on the shore side. Most residents are retirees, but almost all have engaged in water sports or yachting at some time in their lives.

Asked which seasons she preferred, Kelly said February through April. Then, there is less public boating and the wildlife, especially sea otters and birds like purple martins, are active and playful. A heavy-snow winter can be a little treacherous as snow loads can cause some homes to list.

At OYC, everyone knows everyone else's name. Favorite traditions are the 4<sup>th</sup> of July decorations, Tuesday



potluck meals, sharing personal experiences and free advice, participating in the annual OYC boat parade and seeing friends at the open trading library.

There are community "service days" each year. Residents spend 36 hours on upkeep and light maintenance of the common areas.

OYC owns eight acres ashore for automobile parking, a yard for boat trailers and a gazebo in a little forested glen. Other amenities include a car-washing station and horse-shoe pits. Residents also own, directly across the walkway from their home, an area where they can have more storage, or a small floating guest house or office. There is no clubhouse; OYC's burned down in 1943 and was never replaced.

How does one get to participate in this life? First, one must purchase (after careful vetting) one of the 39 "shares" in OYC to become a member. With a fair amount of realty and the floating infrastructure, including dozens of steel pilings driven down to bedrock, the floating walkway, all the utility piping and wiring, the gangplank, fencing, and paved parking, OYC is asset rich. This value, along with demand for living at OYC, are reflected in the share price, negotiated between the leaving resident and the incoming resident. Not many banks will loan for a share purchase so many share sales are for cash. The most recent share purchase price was in the middle six figures.

The price of a home, which is not owned by OYC, is determined by a conventional sale through a real estate agent.

Monthly assessments are based on 1/39<sup>th</sup> of the annual operating budget divided by 12. Also included in the monthly charges are sums to build the dredging reserve. Dredging is needed every 10 to 12 years. Finally, a piece goes to a capital reserve fund; this charge is seen as a prudent and relatively painless way to avoid the possibly contentious impact of a special assessment.

One of the more unique features of OYC living is the "bumping" process. This elaborate process is spelled out in 3½ pages of the bylaws. It allows a resident wishing to move to a different slip the ability to bump the present slip user out and take that person's place. This is not inexpensive as a tug is needed plus the necessary disconnection and reconnection of utilities. All expenses, including costs for the bumpee, are charged to the bumper. The ability to bump is based on seniority (when a resident became a member). And where do the bumpees relocate? They themselves can bump someone with less seniority. This relocation scheme comes complete with bump notices and bump periods. It can be quite a complicated process.

Still, people wanting to escape lawn mowing and live a casual, communal lifestyle in a marine environment should consider a floating home. ■



# Trees Are Social Creatures:

by Rita Brickman Effros

**“If a man walks in the woods for love of them for half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer. But if he spends his days as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is deemed an industrious and enterprising citizen.”**

**Henry David Thoreau**

**A**S SUGGESTED BY THOREAU, THE SOLACE PROVIDED BY A walk in the forest is a source of rejuvenation, calmness, and contentment.

Although we sense that forests are much more than just a group of immobile trees, understanding the true nature of their ecosystem eludes us. In fact, we humans often see ourselves as separate from “nature,” with the view that only we are sentient beings.

It turns out that a forest is much more than a collection of trees. A forest is an entire world of multiple biological pathways. In fact, a forest behaves as though it is a single organism. Plants have electrical and chemical signaling systems and possess something akin to memory — thus, they exhibit “brainy” behavior in the absence of a brain.

An accumulating body of scientific research is expanding our understanding of the highly dynamic nature of forests.

Indeed, it is now clear that plants and trees behave in ways that promote forest diversity, health, community, adaptability and resilience. Moreover, exposure to forests also enhances our mental and physical health.

Much of what we know about forests is based on the more than 30 years of research by Dr. Suzanne Simard and colleagues. Currently a professor of forest ecology at the University of British Columbia, she traces her interest

in the underground world of trees to childhood, when the family dog fell into the outhouse pit. As she dug him out, she was amazed by the intricate world of roots and white mycelium (fungus) within the soil, reminiscent of a superhighway.

Growing up in the forests of Canada, Simard first worked in the logging industry. Her ideas were dismissed, even mocked, by forestry officials and even some scientists at first, but not anymore. She is passionate about the central role of forests in the health of our planet, and her lucid writing and lecture style has made her a major spokesperson for the forests.

So, why do forests matter? It turns out that they cover more than a third of the land surface worldwide. They also house 80% of our biodiversity. Finally, forests store 80% of our terrestrial carbon, and supply all living beings with oxygen. As Simard notes, a “world without forests is a world without humans.”



Illustration by Hebe Greizerstein

Simard’s formal research began during her Ph.D. training at the University of Oregon. Her studies built on the work of past researchers and on often overlooked knowledge of indigenous observers. Her experiments describe the social community of forests that evolved through a *(see Trees p. 34)*

*(from Trees p. 33)*

series of synergistic interactions among multiple different organisms.

The focus of Simard's work has been on the interdependence that occurs between all tree species and thousands of different soil fungal species worldwide. Through this giant network, trees provide the fungi with photosynthetic carbon, and the fungi provide soil nutrients and water.

One of Simard's major early publications was in the prestigious journal *Nature*, in 1997. Presciently linking her findings on the connectivity within forests to the recently developed internet, the editors used a photo from her work on the journal cover and called it the "Wood-Wide Web".

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### The forest environment has long been associated with beneficial health outcomes.

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Indeed, it is now clear that the underground network described by Simard, with its intricate hubs and nodes, is truly analogous to the World Wide Web

The concept of the "mother tree" is one of the major findings emerging from Simard's work. These more mature trees act sort of like anchors for groups of trees. Mother trees are generally the largest and oldest trees in the forest. They have the most extensive root systems, providing them with the ability to nurture seedlings. Old trees also help increase biodiversity within the forest.

Young saplings in a shaded part of the forest lack the sunlight required for photosynthesis. They would never survive without the sugar provided through the root network with mother trees. These large mother trees look after their

families, nurture seedlings and share "wisdom" when they are injured or dying.

Forests maintain not only themselves; they also affect our own species. Simard learned firsthand about the therapeutic effects of trees on human health. One of the substances being used in her breast cancer chemotherapy, Taxol, is derived from the yew tree. And many other drugs, from aspirin to opiates, are derived from plants.

The forest environment has long been associated with beneficial health outcomes. The positive therapeutic effects of forest-walking on human health are the basis of the Japanese concept of "shinrin-yoku," literally "forest-bathing".

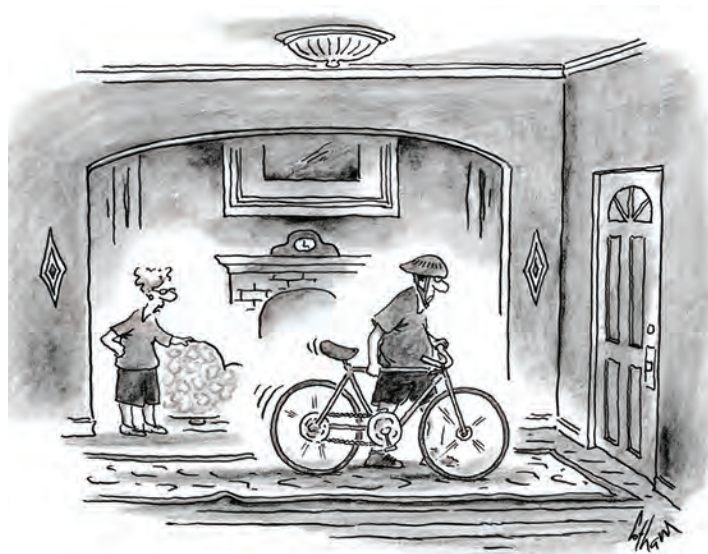
Numerous studies have reported how time spent in forest environments decreases negative emotions, such as sadness and anger, and increases positive emotions. These changes reduce the concentration of cortisol, the main stress hormone. In addition, forest-walking has positive effects on such physiological functions as blood pressure, as well as on cardiac, brain and immune function.

In the last few years, the concept of plant neurobiology has received a great deal of attention. Indeed, even in the absence of a brain, trees seem to have the ability to sense, evaluate, learn and plan. In fact, biochemical signals transmitted through fungal linkages

bear some similarities to actual neural transmitters, and plants seem to solve problems and act on the basis of what they learn.

Trees also communicate through the air. They use pheromones and other types of scent signals. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa, when a giraffe starts chewing on acacia leaves, in response to this injury, the tree produces ethylene gas. This distress signal causes neighboring acacias to start pumping tannins into their leaves. These substances are poisons that can sicken or even kill large herbivores.

The multiple ways that trees communicate with each other is also described by Peter Wohlleben in his book, "The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate — Discoveries from a Secret World." When



*"Take some identification with you in case you die."*

confronted with a parasite, for example, some trees emit a chemical that gives their leaves a bitter flavor that is unpleasant to the parasite.

In turn, nearby trees that have no contact with the parasite emit the same chemical, based on information derived from the tips of their roots. This form of communication ensures that communities of trees work together to defend themselves against a common threat — a lesson that we humans should learn better!

Another example of team action among trees relates to the dropping of nuts to the ground by beeches and oaks. These nuts are eaten by deer and wild boar. As a collective, these trees often hold back for a year or two until the animal population has been reduced. This almost appears to be a “thoughtful” joint activity on the part of these trees.

Evidence of neighboring tree perception and behavioral, learning and memory responses suggests some facet of tree “cognition.” Simard’s work has also provided evidence of collective memory-based interaction among trees, fungi, salmon, bears and people that functions to enhance the health of the whole forest ecosystem.

The relationship between forests and climate change is the central focus of Simard’s 100-year Mother Tree project. The evolution of trees and forests occurs far more gradually than the current rate of climate change. It is, therefore, essential that we humans help forests to be resilient in response to the rapidly changing climate.

Based on the work of Darwin, trees have been considered as disconnected loners that compete for water, nutrients and sunlight. Even today, the timber industry sees forests simply as wood-producing systems governed by the principle of survival of the fittest.

The important ongoing research by Simard and others helps us to view forests from the more holistic vantage of ecosystem biology. Hopefully, this work will help to develop greater human empathy and caring for the health of our forests.

### Recommended Reading:

Suzanne Simard, “Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest”

Peter Wohlleben, “The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate — Discoveries from a Secret World” ■

**OREGON HUMANE SOCIETY**  
**NEW ROAD AHEAD**  
Oregon Humane Society

*From left, OHS Chief Operating Officer Brian August, Campaign Vice-Chair Marc Grignon, Honorary Campaign Chair Dolorosa Margulis, Board Chair Dave Hansen, OHS President and CEO Sharon Harmon, Campaign Chair Lynn Locker, Dean of the OSU Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine Dr. Susan Tornquist, and OHS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stephen Kochis.*

*From left, Honorary Campaign Chair Dolorosa Margulis, OHS President and CEO Sharon Harmon, OHS Board Chair Dave Hansen and New Road Ahead Fundraising Chair Lynn Locker.*

The Oregon Humane Society celebrated the groundbreaking of their New Road Ahead Project on June 16. The most ambitious expansion of programs and services in its 153-year history, the New Road Ahead includes the construction of two new buildings next to OHS’s Ernest C. Swigert Animal Shelter.

Due to open July 2022, the facilities will house a Behavior Rehabilitation and Rescue Center, Animal Crimes Forensic Center, and a Community Teaching Hospital. \$31 million has been raised of the \$36 million goal.

More information about how to contribute to the project can be found at [oregonhumane.org/newroadahead](http://oregonhumane.org/newroadahead).

# My Grandmother's Cane

by Mary Bishop

AS I GRABBED MY CANE THIS MORNING, THE IMAGE of my grandmother with her cane flashed through my mind. I use mine for balance; hers was for bigger things.

My grandmother, a small, sweet woman, loved her garden. This love started when her father took her out into the garden each morning to pick a rose for his buttonhole before leaving for work.



Illustration by Arletha Ryan.

She grew up with a great appreciation and eye for beauty but no interest in politics or other worldly things – just her garden.

When my grandfather died, her daily routine did not change. A caregiver named Colette ran the household and kept an eye on her. Warmly dressed, my grandmother went out in the morning, happy to head into the garden to be nourished and to kill any marauding slugs with her cane.

One day I got a call from Colette, who sounded upset. "I can't find your grandmother. I have looked everywhere!"

Because I lived nearby, I hopped into the car and sped down to join the search.

It included the neighbor's swimming pool, which I was relieved to find empty.

Colette and I were flummoxed. Just then Otis, a man who ran errands for the family, appeared.

Explaining the situation to him took but a minute. He broke out in a big smile, said, "I know where she is," and promptly went and got the wheelbarrow.

Confused but trusting, I followed him down... to the compost pile, hidden behind a hedge.

And there she was, plunk in the middle of the pile, serene in her woolen coat, showing no signs of distress and with no slugs in sight.

Otis picked her up, put her in the wheelbarrow and proudly pushed her back to the house, twigs in her hair but none the worse for wear and with her cane at her side.

So, what is the lesson? I am not sure, but hang onto your cane for comfort, for balance or to kill slugs. It can be the staff for your journey through life. ■

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# Portland Diary

by Nancy Moss

**W**ALKING ALONG THE GREENWAY, I SEE A PAPERBACK DRAPED over one of the benches. Its title is "The Hidden Epidemic: the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America." I wonder who put it there. Perhaps a passerby thought the person who dropped it needed it. Or maybe the reader wanted to warn people strolling along the peaceful river.

My second time past the bench, a young couple is sitting on the bench, eating cinnamon rolls and ignoring the book draped over it.

## Jet Boat

Our jet boat holds 44, seated in rows of six. Doug, our captain, has a shtick. "Who has done this before?" Hands go up.

"I see we've got some slow learners," Doug says.

Doug pilots a boat like a rider galloping on a horse: he spins, bumps, almost-stops to engulf us with spray but never loses control. We see small boats drawn up alongside the Blues Festival, a couple swimming in their private beach, a bald eagle atop a tall fir tree, deserted paper mills looking like the set of a horror movie and finally, as green water

purls around us, Willamette Falls.

Doug tells jokes on our way back: What do you call a spotted owl's poop? Endangered feces.

We dock at OMSI and debark from the boat: soaking wet and feeling about 20 years younger.

## Portland Streetcar

My friend David Loftus, Portland Streetcar customer representative, describes an incident: "There were a couple of dicey-looking characters when I got on the streetcar at 12:30. But one went digging around in his billfold and pulled out a couple of ragged but unused TriMet tickets, by which I gathered he was offering one for his companion as well. I took them and punched them in the validator.

When he finally gathered that a rider is supposed to validate a TriMet ticket with today's date to have valid fare, he said he'd been carrying around 20 or more of them that his P.O. (probation officer) had been handing out to him month after month. 'That's good,' I said, 'now you have a lot of future rides paid for – just make sure you punch one each time, so you don't get caught and fined.'

'Oh, I don't need 'em all,' he replied. I'll give 'em away to other folks.'

'Even better,' I said." ■



Dr. Mila Ioussifova is a residency-trained optometrist with a diverse background and widespread training in comprehensive eye care. A graduate with honors from New England College of Optometry, Dr. Mila maintains and practices the highest standards in optometric practice. Her approach to patient care is systemic with an emphasis on ocular nutrition and disease prevention. She is passionate about eye care and health, and she takes the time to educate her patients on how to maintain healthy eyes.

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# 3550 Arts & Entertainment

by Mary Finneran

**W**HAT HAVE YOU MISSED MOST DURING OUR PLAGUE YEAR? ALONG WITH FAMILY AND TRAVEL MANY WOULD LIST LIVE ART AS THE THING THEIR life has lacked. Artists have missed live audiences at least as much as we have missed them. Portland's arts groups are preparing for a better-than-ever fall season. Here's a rundown of some of what the autumn will bring.

## Performing Arts Schedule

### Portland Opera

503-241-1802

#### *Tosca*

Keller Auditorium  
222 SW Clay St.  
Oct. 29 – Nov. 6

#### *When the Sun Comes Out*

Hampton Opera Center  
Jan. 28 – Feb. 12

#### *The Central Park Five*

Newmark Theatre  
March 18 – 26

### Broadway in Portland

Keller Auditorium  
222 SW Clay St.  
503-417-0573

#### *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Sept. 28 – Oct. 3

#### *Mean Girls*

Nov. 10 – 14

#### *The Band's Visit*

Jan. 4 – 9

#### *Anastasia*

Feb. 8 – 13

#### *Hamilton*

April 13 – May 1

#### *Pretty Woman*

May 31 – June 5

#### *Cats*

June 21 – 26

#### *Hadestown*

July 19 – 24

### Oregon Symphony

Arlene Schnitzer

Concert Hall

1037 SW Broadway  
503-228-1353

#### *Musical Legends of the Harlem Renaissance*

Oct. 9 & 10

#### *Tchaikovsky's Piano*

*Concerto No. 1*

Oct. 16, 17 & 18

#### *Disney Tim Burton's The*

*Nightmare Before*

*Christmas*

Oct. 23 & 31

#### *Haydn & Strauss: Austrian*

*Music Through the Ages*

Oct. 30 & 31 & Nov. 1

#### *Bronfman Plays*

*Rachmaninoff*

Nov. 6 – 8

#### *Ben Folds*

Nov. 10

#### *The Magic of Mozart*

Nov. 14

#### *James Ehnes Plays Mozart*

Nov. 20, 21 & 22

#### *Disney Concert: A Magical*

*Celebration*

Nov. 27 & 28

#### *Handel's Messiah*

Dec. 4, 5 & 6

#### *Gospel Christmas*

Dec. 10, 11 & 12

#### *A Merry-Achi Christmas*

Dec. 15

#### *Cirque Nutcracker*

Dec. 18 & 19

### Portland Center

#### Stage at the Armory

128 NW 11<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
503-445-3700

#### *Frida...A Self Portrait*

U.S. Bank Main Stage  
Oct. 9 – Nov. 7

#### *The Curious Incident of the*

*Dog in the Night-time*

U.S. Bank Main Stage  
Nov. 27 – Dec. 24

#### *The Great Leap*

U.S. Bank Main Stage  
Jan. 15 – Feb. 13

#### *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*

Ellyn Bye Studio  
Jan. 22 – March 6

#### *August Wilson's Gem of the Ocean*

U.S. Bank Main Stage  
March 5 – April 3

#### *Freestyle Love Supreme*

U.S. Bank Main Stage  
April 8 – May 1

#### *Rent*

U.S. Bank Main Stage  
May 21 – June 26

### Portland Playhouse

602 NE Prescott  
503-488-5822

#### *Barbecue*

Oct. 20 – Nov. 21

#### *Christmas Carol (musical adaptation)*

Nov. 28 – Dec. 31

#### *Thurgood*

Jan. 21 – Feb. 27

#### *Titus Andronicus*

March 16 – April 10  
May 4 – June 5

### Profile Theatre

216 NW 13th Ave.  
503-242-0080

#### *Appropriate*

At Imago Theatre  
Jan. 13 – 30

#### *Gloria*

At Imago Theatre  
May 5 – 22

### Artist Repertory Theatre

While ART's home theater is under construction, it will be a company-in-residence at Portland Center Stage@The Armory.  
503-241-1278

#### *The Chinese Lady*

Oct. 19 – Nov. 28

#### *The Great Leap*

Jan. 15 – Feb. 13

### Triangle Productions

1785 NE Sandy Blvd.  
503-239-5919

*Bella Bella*  
Nov. 26 – Dec. 11

*Bakersfield Mist*  
Jan. 27 – Feb. 12

*Sex on the River*  
May 12 — 28

*Mr. Madam*  
June 9 — 25

**Lakewood Theatre  
Company**  
368 S. State St.  
Lake Oswego,  
503-635-3901

*The Odd Couple*  
Sept. 23 – Oct. 17

*Elf*  
Nov. 5 – Dec. 19

*Agatha Christie's Murder  
on the Orient Express*  
Jan. 7 – Feb. 13

*Leading Ladies*  
March 4 – April 10

*Camelot*  
April 29 – June 12

**Broadway Rose  
Theatre**  
12850 Grant Ave.,  
Tigard  
503.620.5262

*Loch Lomond*  
Sept. 30 – Oct. 24

*A Christmas Carol:  
A Musical*  
Nov. 24 – Dec. 23

**Bag & Baggage  
Productions**  
253 Main St.  
Hillsboro  
503-345-9590

*Blue Beard*  
Oct. 1 – 31

*Our Utopia Workshop  
Production*  
Feb. 1 – 28

*Svetlana! Svetlana!*  
April 1 – 30

**Literary Arts: Arts  
and Lecture Series**  
Arlene Schnitzer  
Concert Hall  
503-227-2583

*Daniel James Brown,  
author of The Boys in  
the Boat*  
Oct. 14

*Cathy Park Hong, author  
of Minor Feelings:  
An Asian American  
Reckoning*  
Jan. 27

*Brit Bennett, author of The  
Vanishing Half*  
Feb. 17

## Northwest Dance Project

Our theaters and stages were dark for more than a year. The night Frances McDormand won an Oscar for *Nomadland*, she passionately pleaded with us to “go see the movies.” Yes, let’s go see the movies, but perhaps even more urgent is to go to the theater, the symphony, the opera and other live productions. If people stop going to live entertainment, it won’t survive.

Now is the time to consider buying tickets for the entertainment you love. There are many choices in Portland; a good list of them is printed here. One group that is not listed, because dates were not finalized by press time, is the Northwest Dance Project. This energetic, creative dance company has premiered nearly 300 contemporary dances. Tickets were scheduled to go on sale in August for this season’s three shows, titled Fall, Winter and Spring. Performances are at Lincoln Hall and the Newmark. Call 503-421-7434 for ticket information.

Support the companies you want to see continue with their passion. Go see something!

—Anne Clark

*Richard Powers, author of The Overstory*  
April 21

*Edwidge Danticat, author of Everything Inside*  
May 12



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