

Alameda PDX

Fall 2020

Volume 34 Number 3



NEIGHBORS JACK LAZARECK, JOHN HUBBARD, SUSAN WOOD AND SARAH LEGER SHARE THEIR BELIEFS WITH LOCAL MOTORISTS ON A SUNDAY EVENING AT WILSHIRE PARK

Alameda Neighbors Stage Black Lives Matter Protests

by Patty Farrell

In late June, Brittany Morris was talking with her adopted parents, Mary Lynn and John Villaume, about the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement. John and Mary Lynn said they would like to join the Portland protests, but were concerned about the chance of catching Covid-19, particularly given their age and underlying health conditions.

So Brittany hatched a plan: Why don't we plan a socially distanced neighborhood rally, where everyone wears masks? They agreed to gather at the busy intersection of NE 15th and Fremont every Sunday from 2-3 p.m. Brittany posted a notice on Nextdoor Sabin and on Instagram, and a friend posted on Nextdoor Alameda. The rest is history.

Every Sunday, between 10 and 20 neighbors arrive with hand-drawn signs reading "Black Lives Matter," "White Silence is Violence," "Racism is Sin," "Say Their Names," and more. For an hour, they wave their signs and receive almost universal, positive feedback from all races and ages: honks, cheers, peace-sign gestures and Black Power fists. Black neighbors often stop to thank them for speaking

up. The hearty band of protestors ends up leaving more energized and positive than before they arrived.

"I saw Brittany's post and decided to join the rally each week to push my ongoing awakening to embedded racism," said Alameda neighbor Meg Bowman. "I've been surprised by the lively response from drivers, bikers and walkers. It feels like we're joined together, for this moment, in seeking racial justice."

Rick Seaman, who has lived near the intersection for 49 years, is honoring the memory of his son, a Black man who died this year. "We also want to support his son, our grandson," he said. "It's important to keep this protest visible. And it's great to see the responses from people who drive by."

Alameda neighbor Nancy Haught put it simply: "I want to add my voice to so many others who believe it's time for change. I want to make sure this keeps going."

Heidi J., a Sabin resident, works as a nanny. "I wanted to protest but didn't feel right about exposing the family I work for. So this feels safe," she said. "White people

have to listen and make sure everyone's voice is heard. Everyone is valuable and if you can speak up, speak up."

John Villaume, Brittany's 90-year-old adopted father, said he has no choice but to protest. "We have a 13-year-old Black grandson. What's going to happen to him when he starts driving? It's time to do something." John holds a sign promoting ReimagineOregon.org, a group formed by Black-led organizations, Black individual activists and protest organizers to advocate for policy changes in education, policing, housing, health, transportation, economic development and other community needs.

Elsewhere in Alameda and surrounding communities, people are organizing local protests and vigils to show their support for the Black Lives Matter movement. Everyone is welcome to join any of the protests, as long as they commit to social distancing and wearing masks.

Fremont United Methodist Church organizes a protest every Thursday from 5-6 pm on NE 27th and Fremont Street. There are regular protests at NE 33rd and Knott and at NE 15th and Broadway ... (continued on page 4)



JOHN VILLAUME AND HIS ADOPTED DAUGHTER, BRITTANY MORRIS, ORGANIZED THE WEEKLY PROTEST ON SUNDAYS AT 2 P.M. AT NE 15TH AND FREMONT

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Editor's Message

by Annette Bendinelli



It would take quite awhile to list all the changes that have happened since we published our Spring issue. The pandemic has now sickened over 27,000 people in Oregon, and nearly four months of occasionally violent protests have made

Portland a focus of national attention. To those who see us on the nightly news, it must seem like we're a city in chaos.

Despite the national narrative, daily life goes on in most of Portland, albeit with an increased awareness of the struggle many of our fellow citizens face. Here in Alameda, we're finding ways to do our part. Whether we're participating in street corner protests, creating works of art, donating funds, or displaying lawn signs, we've been actively showing our support for the political and social issues that mean the most to us. Throughout this edition of AlamedaPDX, we highlight some of the ways our neighborhood folks are contributing to the conversation on race, equality, and social justice.

While the importance of this conversation can't be underestimated, we also remain in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. To inject a little lightness into this ongoing battle – and because it's summer – we also take a look at how

we're coping with the recreational restrictions Covid-19 has imposed on us. Since our options have become more limited, we're rediscovering old ways to stay fit, creating new ways to be social, and seeking more pleasure in the comforts of home.

While recreational walking has always been an Alameda pastime, its popularity seems to have increased exponentially. It's a socially safe way to get out and see what's going on in the neighborhood, and an easy way to exercise - especially if you're not quite ready to get back in the gym.

In this issue, Dan LaGrande takes to the streets to talk to both longtime walkers, and those who have taken up the habit as a result of the pandemic. If you want to combine your walk with a history lesson, on Page 5 Doug Decker maps out a couple of routes that explore Alameda's rural past. You can choose to trace the steps of the Broadway streetcar, or wander through parts of our neighborhood that once boasted a dairy farm and a thriving logging mill.

Writer David Spencer also shares some background on a couple of historic homes in the Alameda area that are worth checking out, and if you walk over to Beaumont-Wilshire, be sure to see the new mural at Amalfi's restaurant. On Page 11, Amalfi's owner, Kiauna Floyd, explains how the powerful artwork came to be.

Because our travel options have been seriously limited, we've been putting more energy into the places where we spend the

most time. You can learn how to beautify an often-neglected part of your yard on Page 10, and once you've spiffed things up you might want to commission a home portrait by artist Leisa Collins, who Blythe Knott profiles on Page 9. Blythe also notes that if you'd like to explore your home's past, our Alameda historian, Doug Decker, can compile its history in a keepsake book.

And finally, this past July Ruth Talbot's family wanted to throw a party for her 95th birthday, but they knew they couldn't have a typical, pre-pandemic gathering. So, they got creative and planned a day of fun, safe-but-social activities with Ruth's friends and Alameda neighbors. Read about her celebration on Page 7 - and if you've had a Covid-friendly party recently or are planning to have one, let us know and we'll share your story with our readers!

Alameda – like any neighborhood – can often serve as a microcosm of what's going on in the wider world. We're turning outward to advocate for the important causes we believe in, yet we're turning inward to find relaxation in a chaotic world. We hope this issue will both spur you to action, and help you discover ways to find peace as we navigate the challenges ahead.

Stay safe,
– Annette

ANA Hosts Unconscious Bias Workshop

The Alameda Neighborhood Association recently invited Dr. James Mason, a PSU diversity, equity, and inclusion expert, to lead a three-part community workshop titled "Assessing and Interrupting Bias, and Creating Welcoming Environments." The workshop explored the fact that as the U.S. moves deeper into the 21st century, people are more likely to encounter greater diversity in terms of neighbors, co-workers, classmates, and others.

In the face of diversity, people often struggle with issues of implicit bias, or attitudes or perceptions/stereotypes that unwittingly affect their views of -and interactions with - people at an unconscious level. Many of these biases are deeply embedded in our cultural symbols and institutions.

Workshop participants focused on:

- Exploring how implicit bias might be manifested and its potential consequences.
- Identifying one's biases, as well as one's cross cultural strengths upon which new strengths and assets may be based.
- Exploring strategies for interrupting bias (e.g., micro-aggression and insults) in ways that give unwitting offenders an opportunity to grow, and reveal to the victims of bias that allies are present.
- Discovering resources and approaches for ongoing development as it concerns becoming a resource for diversity in each environment or social setting

The socially distanced, outdoor event was held on NE 28th St. between NE Bryce and NE Dunkley and was limited to the first 30 people who registered on the Alameda neighborhood website.



ALAMEDA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF INCLUSION AND SUPPORT

Our community declared the Alameda neighborhood a hate-free zone in 1995. Today, we reaffirm Alameda's commitment to be a loving, caring, supportive and inclusive community for all who reside, work, do business, or visit our neighborhood. We stand against hatred, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and/or marginalization of any kind. We are committed to growing, nurturing and sustaining a community where all feel welcomed, safe and included.

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The ANA meets on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm at Fremont United Methodist Church.

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Systemic Racism Often Shaped Portland Neighborhoods by Doug Decker

Systemic racism and inequity have a long, sad history in Northeast Portland neighborhoods, dating back to the earliest days of homebuilding and development.

Restrictive Covenants

As early as 1909, racially restrictive language was placed into property deeds in numerous neighborhoods—including Alameda, Dolph Park, Laurelhurst and Mock’s Crest. Race-related restrictions were frequently associated with other land use prohibitions, such as in this deed restriction included in formal recorded real estate documents for an Alameda property:

- During the period of 20 years from and after the ninth day of September 1909 and until after the ninth day of September 18, 1929 no intoxicating liquors shall be manufactured sold or otherwise disposed of as a beverage in any place of public resort on the premises hereinafter described and hereon and hereby conveyed;
- Nor shall said premises at any time during said period of 20 years be occupied by or used for any shop, store, saloon, hotel, livery, stable, foundry, laundry, factory or other place of business or to be use for the carrying on of any trade or business whatsoever; nor for any other residential purposes;
- Nor be in any manner form or way used or occupied by Chinese or Japanese other than that as the said Chinese or Japanese may be employed by residents thereon as house or other servants;

- That no residence shall be built within 25 feet of the street line of said property...that no flats or tenements shall be erected on said property and that no residence costing Less than \$2500 shall be built.

Sale and Loan Prohibitions

By 1919, the Portland Realty Board—which governed local real estate and home mortgage practices—prohibited all realtors and bankers from selling property or giving loans for property to any minority in a white neighborhood. In 1921, the board also excluded all but white men from membership.

In later years—with official practices like redlining fully mainstreamed in the banking and real estate business—informal practices were also widespread, such as neighbors actively working to intimidate and discourage people of color from buying property.

In 1953, neighbors on one Alameda street banded together to pool their money and buy a home out from underneath a Black family who had made an offer to buy a neighborhood home. Weeks later, the neighborhood owners turned around and sold the house on contract to a white family. For several years, envelopes of money passed back and forth across the street and up the block as loans were paid back and knowing glances exchanged. The children of those neighborhood families—now in their 70s—recently shared this story with me.

For more on understanding how systemic racism has shaped planning and growth in Northeast Portland and across the city, I recommend “Historical Context of Racist Planning: A history of how planning segregated Portland,” a September 2019 report from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. You can find a copy online by searching “Portland Racist Planning History Report.”



The ANA is Here For You!

We recognize that Covid-19 continues to disrupt daily life for many in our neighborhood. In response, the Alameda Neighborhood Association is organizing volunteers to run essential errands for Alameda community members at high risk as defined by the CDC. Connect with us at alamedaportland.com to get help or volunteer to run errands.

The ANA will match volunteers with neighbors who need assistance within 48 hours if possible, and notify both parties. Details can be worked out directly between the participants.

All volunteers are welcome - we just ask that you be conscientious about your own health, and the safety of others. We can get through this together!




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(Protests, continued from Page 1)

At Wilshire Park, on the corner of NE 33rd and Mason, a group of neighbors convene every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 6 pm. Organizer Nancy Mogielnicki said that, like Brittany, she wanted to organize a safe protest that still made an impact. “We wrestled with a lot of questions: Is this about white virtue? Are we solving any problems? Are we making too much noise? But you feel like you’re connecting with people in their cars, sharing solidarity with the Black Lives movement.”

Jack Lazareck, a retired math teacher at Beaumont Middle School, shows up regularly at the Wilshire Park protest. “The more we are able to keep people focused on the causes of systemic racism, the more likely change will occur,” he said. “This is a low-impact way to remind people that these issues have not been solved.”

Note: At press time these protests were still being held, however times and dates are subject to change.



MARY LYNN VILLAUME, NANCY HAUGHT, JOHN VILLAUME AND MEG BOWMAN OFTEN CREATE DIFFERENT SIGNS FOR EACH OF THE SUNDAY RALLIES AT NE 15TH AND FREMONT



HEIDI J. PROTESTS AT NE 15TH AND FREMONT

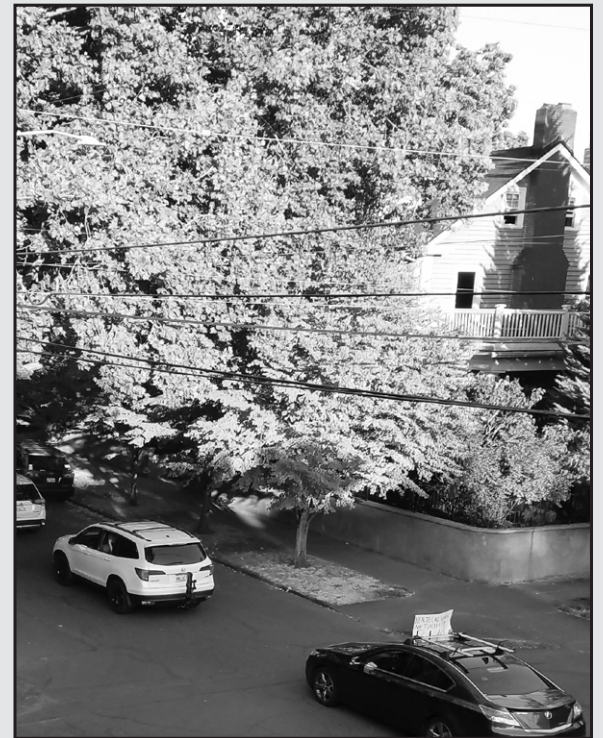
Solidarity in Motion

by Gail Jeidy

We were at home around 7:30 p.m. on July 29, when we heard chanting from a megaphone. We assumed it was coming from a protest at Grant Park, 12 blocks away. But the chanting grew louder and was accompanied by honking - two longs and two shorts. Multiple voices grew stronger by the second.

We raced upstairs to our balcony to get a clearer sense of the oncoming siege. The first car went by and the next. Then a constant parade of vehicles, passionate participants of all ages and genders waving signs and arms and shouting “Black Lives Matter,” followed by the honking rhythm of the words.

The river of vehicles flowed for 15 minutes past our house. I waved back with raised fist and peace sign. Stood speechless at the stream of solidarity and wiped my tears.



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Alameda Neighborhood History Walks by Doug Decker



THE PEARSON PONDEROSA PINE AT NE 29TH & FREMONT

We all know that getting outside for a walk is a great way to clear your head, get some exercise, and stay connected with neighbors and the neighborhood. What if you added a little history exploration to your next outing? Every walk in Alameda has the potential to be a history walk.

Here are two routes you might try with a friend or family member, the dog, or maybe just solo to soak up a sense of place. For maps of these walks, photos, and other clues to check out along the way, visit my blog alamedahistory.org and enter the search term “Walking Alameda.”

Pearson Dairy Farm Walk: It’s gone now, but the old Pearson farm defined the landscape of this area in the vicinity of Alameda School just before the turn of the 20th century. This .6 mile walk will trace the outlines of the farm and put you in touch with some landmarks you might not have known existed.

The starting point for this one is easy: the Pearson Pine at NE 29th and Fremont. Go stand under its broad branches and be prepared for time travel back through our neighborhood’s past. Before you walk the farm, though, there are a few things you need to know.

About the Tree: This old timer has seen it all -- the farms and orchards south of Fremont; the deep forest on the ridge to the north and the flats beyond that give way to the Columbia; the slow but steady reach of the street grid; an explosion of home building; construction of nearby Alameda School; the steady tide of young families moving in, and older people moving out. Like a sentinel, this tree has watched our corner of Portland grow up.

Planted in 1885 by Samuel Pearson to mark the northeast corner of his 20-acre farm, this Ponderosa pine has had plenty of room to grow to its noteworthy circumference of 15 feet, and estimated height of more than 100 feet. I nominated this as a Heritage Tree back in 2008.

About the Farm: The land was originally part of a Donation Land Claim granted by the U.S. Government in 1859 to William and Isabelle Bowering. Pearson bought the land in 1875 after it had gone through a quick succession of owners, and began to establish his farm.

Pearson was born in England, his wife Adeline in France, and together for the next 25-plus years, they tried to make

a go of it milking cows on the edge of Portland. But it was not an easy existence. Cows grazed, were born, milked and died, right where today’s Alameda Elementary School sits. Contained elsewhere in the early Pearson landscape was a pond at the lowest part of the property, in the vicinity of today’s NE 29th and Siskiyou, with an operating sawmill nearby; pastures for the dairy cows; a large old locust tree (now gone) on Fremont at 27th and what the Pearson claim described as “deep forest to the north.”

1. Start on NE 29th and Fremont, under the Pearson Pine, and head south on 29th for two blocks to NE Siskiyou. Along the way, you’ll note an empty lot on the right a few houses south on 29th...until two years ago, this held an original Pearson house.

2. Turn right (west) on NE Siskiyou. You are now walking through what was a major wetland feature and pond, maybe a seasonal creek. If you look carefully, you can see what looks like a low spot in the pavement, where they drained the swamp. You can also see the streets don’t line up just right here...a clue to the meeting of two developments.

3. Continue on Siskiyou to NE 27th. You’ve just walked past a sawmill and small log yard. Can you hear the cows?

4. Turn right (north) on NE 27th and appreciate the nice plaza and grounds at Alameda Elementary School. The pasture was off to your right where the playground is today. Check out the blue farmhouse on your left as you approach Fremont. The third generation of Pearsons was born and played here. One of the Pearsons once said that porch was built extra large so the kids had a place to play outside that wasn’t in the cow pasture. In that day—1908—there was no school yet, no street, no sidewalk. Just a view of Mt. Hood and their pasture off the front porch to the east, and 20 acres of Scotch broom and dogwood out the back door.

5. Turn right (east) on Fremont and set your sights on that big Ponderosa pine, back to where you started.

Much has changed in this place since the Pearsons first shaped the landscape. But the power of memory, and the silent witness of that tall pine, remind us all about our neighborhood’s connection to those early years.

Broadway Streetcar Walk: This 3.1 mile loop will have you tracing the path of the Broadway Streetcar that served Alameda for generations.

You can enter this walking loop just about anywhere on the course of the streetcar’s roundabout transit through the neighborhood, and you can head either north or south. But, just to be orderly about it, how about starting at the end of the line: NE 29th and Mason. That’s where the Broadway streetcar stopped, where the motorman would step outside for a smoke and a look at his watch.

From the end of the line, walk south on 29th to NE Regents, where the streetcar passed through the “Bus and Bicycle Only” notch at Regents and Alameda. The streetcar turned right and went down the hill here, and you should too, following Regents to NE 24th Avenue where you’ll turn left (south). Continue south on 24th to Fremont and then turn right on Fremont to go west for a couple blocks. At NE 22nd, turn left (south) and enter the long southbound leg of the circuit. Note just how wide the street is: a clue that you are on the streetcar route.

After a good, long straight stretch on NE 22nd, when you hit Tillamook and 22nd, you’ll find a modest “S” curve, where the streetcar zigged and zagged on its way south to connect with Broadway. Follow along just for fun. But instead of turning west on Broadway (right) like the streetcar did on

its way downtown, turn left (east) and walk back to NE 24th, where you turn left (north) and head back through the neighborhood. Now you’re back on the path of the Broadway Car—the northbound side of the circuit—and headed toward the end of the line. Continue north on 24th, cross Fremont and turn right (east) on Regents, where you go back up the hill. At the top of Regents, pass through the bus notch again and go a few more blocks to Mason, and you’ve arrived at the end of the line.

A little more history about our streetcar...

Two generations of our neighbors grew up relying on the Broadway streetcar to take them where they needed to go. Ever-present, often noisy, sometimes too cold (or too hot), but always dependable, the Broadway car served Alameda loyally from 1910 to 1948.

Sensitive to the transport needs of its prospective customers, the Alameda Land Company financed construction of the rails and overhead electric lines that brought the car up Regents Hill to 29th and Mason. Developers all over the city knew access was key to selling lots, particularly in the muddy, wild environs that Alameda represented in 1909.



THE BROADWAY STREETCAR, CORNER OF NE 29TH & MASON, C.1912-13

In 1923, a trip downtown cost an adult 8 cents. Kids could buy a special packet of school tickets allowing 25 rides for \$1.00. In 1932, a monthly pass for unlimited rides cost \$1.25. Alamedans used the streetcar as a vital link to shopping, churchgoing, commuting to the office, trips to the doctor. Some even rode the line for entertainment.

During the day, cars ran every 10 minutes, and Alamedans referred to them as “regular cars” or “trains.” During the morning and evening rush hours, additional cars called “trippers” were put into the circuit to handle additional riders. Trippers did not climb the hill to 29th and Mason, traveling only on the Fremont Loop to save time. At night, our line was one of the handful in Portland that featured an “owl car,” a single train that made the circuit once an hour between midnight and 5 a.m. Owl service was a special distinction. The downtown end of the line was at SW Broadway and Jefferson.

The Broadway streetcar was replaced by bus on August 1, 1948. By 1950, all of Portland’s once ubiquitous streetcar lines were gone. In the early days of neighborhood life, our streetcar was indispensable. It was one catalyst that made development of Alameda possible. It linked us to downtown and to other neighborhoods near and far. To hear the stories of those who rode it frequently, it linked us to each other in a way, too.



Neighborhood historian Doug Decker prepares history studies of homes, leads history walks, and makes presentations to groups interested in learning about local history. Write him at doug@alamedahistory.org or visit www.alamedahistory.org

Wow – The Walkers in Alameda! Are You One of Them? by Dan La Grande

The pandemic has changed us in many ways. Surprisingly, sometimes for the better. For example, many more of us are outside more and walking — often more frequently and for longer distances.

Strolling around the Alameda neighborhood these days is an eye-opener. You not only meet a lot of other walkers, but you see families in the middle of streets as well as on sidewalks, sometimes with a dad and his little daughter perched on his shoulders, or parents trying to keep up with their youngsters who are zooming ahead of them on roller blades. Plus, you see numerous joggers, runners and bicyclists.

Joe and Pam Cameron have lived in Alameda for 22 years. “We were regular walkers before the pandemic, walking our dog about an hour each day,” Joe explained. “What strikes us now on our walks is seeing so many new walkers, new people we haven’t seen before, which is very nice. Our walks vary. Today we went up the stairs to Alameda Ridge and on up to Wilshire Park.”

“One thing I observe now,” Pam added, “is how many people are walking in the street, often families with small children. I know it helps families and others maintain social

to my office,” Lori said. “And as an architect, that’s a big challenge.”

Andrew and Kathleen Caturano are also in the working world, and walked one or two days a week before the pandemic. They said they are walking much more now, four or five days a week for a half-hour or so.

“Working at home now, rather than going into the office, has been a big change,” Andrew explains. “For me, walking is more a mental break, a nice way to clear my head. It is a pleasant way to wind down after work. And I can say there are definitely a lot more walkers in the neighborhood now.”

Alameda resident Ara Greenfield was an active runner and walker before the pandemic, and still maintains the same routine for one to one-and-a-half hours daily.

“For me, walking is therapeutic,” she says, “and running is exercise. I would say the number of walkers has doubled since the pandemic began. It will be very telling when the weather changes and the cold, rainy days arrive. Will people still be out walking or running, or not?”

Janice Elven described herself as a semi-regular walker before the pandemic. “Now, I’m an avid walker, an hour

been walking together for 36 years. Their membership has varied over the years, and there are now seven women in the group, including Anne Feeney and Karen Lacrosse, the founders, and long-time member Carol Turner. Anne served two terms as the Multnomah County Auditor, and Carol is a former chair of the Portland School Board.

“We walk three days a week for an hour or so, starting at 6:45 in the morning,” Anne says, “and we walk at a pace where we can converse. We talk all the time — mostly politics. We meet at the corner of NE Cesar Chavez and Alameda and follow the same route, which includes going down and up at least two flights of stairs along Alameda Ridge, so it’s a real workout.”

Anne says the group sees very few walkers in the early morning, but numerous runners and bicyclists. “When the pandemic started, we didn’t see a car on the street at our early morning hour, but now we are seeing some,” Anne says. “So we spread out on the side of the street, some in front, some in the middle and some of us in the back, and keep our social distancing. We carry masks, and put them on if we meet someone else out walking.”

It is fascinating to observe how many residents in Alameda



ALAMEDA WALKERS OUT IN FORCE

distancing, but it scares me sometimes with cars also going down the streets. I just hope they are watching carefully because there may be people in the street ahead of them.”

Pam also said at the beginning of the pandemic, she noticed there was little eye contact between people out walking, and they would cross the street to avoid other walkers. “Now, however, people seem more friendly and there is more social interaction, but folks are still doing a good job of social distancing.”

Lori Kellow and her son, Morgan Lee, were also out walking their dog.

“Our walking habits haven’t changed much,” Lori said. “We are still following the same daily routine, with stops along the way for our dog. The biggest change since the pandemic started is that it now seems like there are a million more people out walking. And with more people walking their dogs, we feel like a windshield wiper as we go back and forth across the street repeatedly, to avoid a conflict between dogs.”

Lori added that one thing she really notices since the pandemic started is how many yards have been improved, and how they look very well cared for.

“A big change for me now is that I now work from home, spending a lot of time online, rather than going downtown

each day. It makes me feel better physically and mentally. Also, I know every rosebush and garden in the neighborhood now,” she says with a laugh.

Gayle and Deborah are friends, one in Irvington, and the other in Alameda. They met before the pandemic at the Irvington Club pool, and started walking together.

“Since the pandemic started, I’m walking more now because I can’t go to the gym like I used to,” Gale explained. “I walk about four miles a day, usually for one-and-a-half to two hours. And I do see quite a few more walkers now.”

“I’m more erratic,” Deborah explains, “but I enjoy walking with Gayle. Our walks vary between neighborhoods; sometimes we go up to Concordia. The new trend I notice now is that more families are out together, often with small children, both walking and on bikes. That’s great to see.”

Nancy Johnson was an active walker before the pandemic, walking at least five days a week for about 40 minutes. “I’m a new resident in Alameda,” she explains. “We moved to Portland from Indiana last year, after my husband and I retired. I enjoy exploring more areas on my walks outside Alameda to get acquainted with other neighborhoods. We love Oregon and are delighted to live in Portland.”

While some folks have started walking regularly since the pandemic started, one group of women in Alameda has

have emulated what Anne Feeney and her friends started 36 years ago — taking regular long walks, often with family or friends. And enjoying the benefits of outdoor exercise — physically, emotionally and mentally.

Let’s call it a welcome silver lining in the dark cloud of this prolonged pandemic.



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Creative Celebration Marks Ruth Talbot's 95th Year by Stephanie Fernandez

On Wednesday, July 8, Ruth Talbot celebrated her 95th birthday. She and her husband, Jack Talbot, have lived in their NE Dunckley Street home for 55 years, and their family creatively brought together longtime friends and neighbors to mark the occasion.

Ruth's family and close friends collaborated on the surprise party in several ways. First, the entire exterior of her house and yard were adorned in colorful streamers, balloons and festive decorations. A super-sized banner saying "Happy 95th Birthday Ruth" was also on display. In addition, a contact-free table was set up, allowing each person to leave a card, gift or flowers. It was clear every detail had been thoughtfully planned.

On the afternoon of July 8, Ruth's Alameda Tuesday Club friends and immediate neighbors – all wearing masks and maintaining a safe distance – formed a procession and paraded in front of her house. Ruth was visibly moved by the collective effort, and took time to address each guest as they introduced themselves and revisited their connection to her.

In the evening, a string quartet performed in the middle of the street in front of Ruth and Jack's home and once again, friends and neighbors were cordially invited to attend. Neighbor and Grant High School student Soren Collins led the quartet, which included his younger brother, Rainer, and two of their friends.

Guests swayed to the joyful melodies of Haydn, Mozart, and Ringo Starr, and enjoyed songs from the musical *Oklahoma!*

Longtime friends lingered after the concert and continued their conversations, sparked with laughter, while Ruth and Jack's daughters took photos and answered FaceTime calls from missing family members. It was obvious that the joy of the occasion emanated from Ruth's home to the entire block, as people came together despite the present pandemic. Her family found creative ways to safely observe her milestone birthday, and their efforts allowed the neighborhood to celebrate Ruth in style!



RUTH AND JACK TALBOT GREET GUESTS



FRIENDS GATHER AT A SOCIAL DISTANCE



NEIGHBORHOOD STRING QUARTET PERFORMANCE

Editor's Note

If you've had a "Covid-Creative" celebration recently, or are planning one, let us know at alamedanewsletter@gmail.com, and we may feature it in the next newsletter. Be sure to include photos and a complete description of the event.



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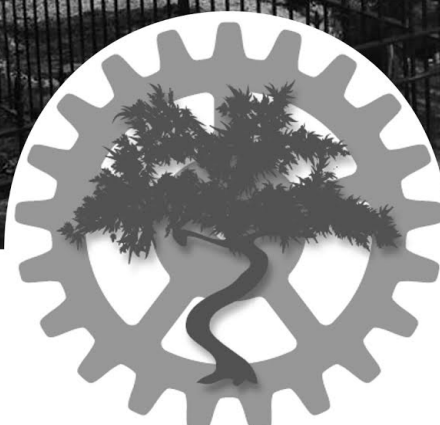
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Living in a Historic House by David Spencer

Many of the houses in the Alameda Neighborhood were originally built for early movers and shakers in Portland, and these houses reflect the grandeur of their owners' lives. The Alameda ridge has several custom-designed manors that offered quarters for nannies, maids, and gardeners.

Some of these houses have a plaque out front that tells the name of the house and gives its number on the National Register of Historic Places. A house gets on that list one of two ways: It must be an outstanding example of a particular design or construction style, or it can be connected to a historic event or person.

Ten neighborhood houses are listed on the National Register. Like me, you might be wondering what historic significance or architectural excellence got these homes on the list? What's it like to live in one of these cultural artifacts? Fortunately, a couple of current owners of two such houses have satisfied our shared curiosity.

The Virgil and Beulah Crum House

The Virgil and Beulah Crum House, at 4438 NE Alameda, was named for its original owner, Virgil Crum. He was a prominent corporate and real estate lawyer. With his wife Beulah, he hired well-known commercial architect Leigh L. Dougan to build a large home in 1926. Subsequent owners Allan Brabo and Landon Lane were in the process of restoring the house to its original condition when they listed it on the National Register August 5, 1999.



THE VIRGIL AND BEULAH CRUM HOUSE

The Crum house is significant as a unique example of a Period Revival style house: its prominent features are Gothic Revival and Tudor styles. It looks like a castle, with thick gray basalt walls, pointed arch windows, and the steeply pitched hipped roof. And it's big: 6,100 square feet containing six bedrooms, five bathrooms, a home gym, a solarium, and a laundry room. It's the kind of house that draws people to gawk from the sidewalk.

It might also be the only house in Portland built from stone quarried at the Grotto, the religious shrine off NE Sandy Boulevard, where architect Dougan designed the monastery. Current owner, Laurie Rubin, suspects Dougan had lots of leftover stone that influenced his choice of building materials. Rubin's stonemason, who was trained in England,

has pointed out that some of the original work wasn't done the way that classically trained masons would do it.

Rubin bought the home in 2018 from Sarah Behr and Roland Sarrazen. Rubin's family includes many overseas members, so the large house works out well when they come for extended visits. The house has been maintained well over the years, especially the visual aspects that make it a showplace, but Rubin has had to do a lot of mechanical work. She's repaired roof leaks where flashing and caulking weren't right, and replaced rotting attic windows. Supposedly, the house has no more old-fashioned knob and tube wiring, but it still has electrical problems such as lights that start and stop on their own.

Or, that could be the ghost—every castle should have one, right? Rubin has heard rumors in the neighborhood that the house is haunted by a little girl who died there. She says there's a room in the attic with a closet and radiator and space for a single bed. Previous owner Sarah Behr's family always left the light burning there, and Roland Sarrazen said he once felt a shove on the stairs. A visiting niece woke late in the night to hear footsteps in the attic, and Rubin, who is particular about where she puts things, notes odd displacements of items such as the cap to a wine opener, and one of a pair of kitchen mitts. She also found three smoke detectors sitting on the floor instead of attached to the wall.

Virgil and Beulah Crum were childless, and Rubin knows of no deaths among the children who grew up there subsequently. She plans to research the ghost and other historical details once repairs to the home are complete.

The Thomas Prince House

The Thomas Prince House at 2903 NE Alameda was owned by Stephen and Letta Braun when it was listed on the historic registry on October 23, 1986. Architecturally, the house is an excellent example of period architecture in the Georgian style, distinguished by brick exterior walls, a slate roof, large porches, a bay window, a large, balconied entry portico, prominent roof dormers with pediments, and the primary window type of multiple panes with a double-hung wood sash.

This house is not significant for its architecture alone. The Oregon Home Builders company built it for eastern industrialist Thomas Prince in 1913. "It was a trophy house for the company, built to show investors and potential clients they knew what they were doing," according to historian Doug Decker's post on alamedahistory.org.

The Home Builders' president at the time, Oliver K. Jeffrey, convinced the declining 72 year-old Prince to assume a lot of the financial burden for the company's houses that weren't selling, and for Jeffrey's struggling aircraft factory. "A Prince family member from back east came to help the ailing Thomas, saw what was going on and immediately shut down the airplane factory and established a guardian for Prince, cutting Jeffrey off," Decker writes.

The house has had multiple owners, most recently current residents Robert and Rhodora Brummett. The Brummetts moved from San Francisco to Portland for the people,



THE THOMAS PRINCE HOUSE

culture, weather, and most importantly, the architecture. They wanted an old house with character and history, and found that Portland has a large number of old homes fitting that description. Robert had been watching the Thomas Prince House for two years on Zillow, fantasizing about buying it, but never dreaming it would be possible. Finally his dream came true and they bought the house in 2015.

"But you quickly realize when you 'own' a grand piece of history, that in reality, you are just a transient caretaker; the house will live on past us. Our job is to make sure it makes it to the future," Robert says. "I think the thing that has surprised us the most is the feeling that we owe this house respect for its history, and the histories of the people who preceded us. We are trying to stay true to that."

Over the past five years, the Brummetts have upgraded systems to 21st century standards and materials, but are not changing the general layout. Says Robert, "It is what it is, and we wouldn't want to modify it from its original plan, with one minor exception: We redid the layout of one of the bathrooms."

Robert feels the house is staying true to its history. He tells how "One day, a family stopped by with their grandfather who had lived here in the 1940s as a teenager. It was touching to see him look at his old haunt. He was not able to come inside due to his health, but you could see him reliving his past."

You can learn more about the history of the Crum and Prince houses at these sources:

- "A Castle Worth the Hassle," Eric Bartels, Portland Tribune, February 09, 2004. Visit <https://pamplinmedia.com/component/content/article?id=108253>
- Doug Decker's Alameda Old House History blog alamedahistory.org ("Oregon Home Builders: A Company History, 1912-1917" and "Oregon Home Builders Company: The Rest of the Story")
- Oregon Historical Society's Oregon Encyclopedia https://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/index.cfm?do=v.dsp_siteSummary&resultDisplay=49446 and https://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/index.cfm?do=v.dsp_siteSummary&resultDisplay=49365

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Painting Alameda by Blythe Knott

Many of us have been spending a lot more time than usual around the house lately. Perhaps this confinement has exposed a few things that are in need of improvement. Perhaps, also, you have lately gained a new appreciation for your home and your neighborhood. I know I have.

If you are feeling extra-close to your house these days, you can show your love by commissioning a painting of it! Artist Leisa Collins has specialized in painting homes for many years, and has already painted a number of Alameda houses as part of her recent 100 Historic Homes of Portland project. According to Leisa, she included Alameda in her project “because of its wide range of architectural styles, and its beautiful tree-lined streets and colorful gardens.”

I asked Leisa a few questions about what brought her to this line of work, and to this neighborhood. She is from New Zealand originally, but moved to the US more than 30 years ago to explore the world and expand her art career. Her focus has always been architectural art, dating from when she was young and was fascinated with the Victorian villas, cottages and row houses prevalent in Auckland. She started out by creating a series of Auckland historic homes, had an exhibition locally, and went from there.

Leisa discovered Alameda while spending time in Portland, which she tells me is one of her favorite cities due to its treasure trove of historic homes and buildings. While here, she selected about a dozen favorite neighborhoods for her series of historic Portland house portraits. She loves Alameda’s architecture, as it contains Craftsman, Foursquare, bungalow, Colonial, Tudor, Edwardian, and Cape Cod homes - all within a small neighborhood space.

She noted that “in all my travels across the USA, Portland has a lot more intact and maintained historic homes than most cities. And a lot fewer historic teardowns, too. This is largely due to the active neighborhood associations in Portland that started decades ago. Associations such as yours in Alameda have kept historic preservation alive and have fought to stop indiscriminate and unwarranted development.”

When painting around a neighborhood, Leisa typically takes time to choose her favorite homes, then takes pictures and makes sketches so that she can create the final portraits when she’s back in her studio.

Leisa notes that when she’s painting a house it takes many hours, because she paints not only the house itself, but also captures “the garden, the special items on the porch, the trees and the season. Things that give the home its personality and memories.” She further notes, “I first do a detailed ink pen drawing and follow this with a watercolor painting on top. It takes longer this way, but I feel it is the best technique to use when creating paintings of architecture.”

She is currently finishing a coffee table book that will include her paintings of homes in every state and will also have a section displaying Portland homes. She plans to publish it before the end of this year.



A CRAFTSMAN-STYLE BUNGALOW ON NE 26TH AVENUE

Leisa has a blog post on Alameda houses, which can be found at <https://leisacollins.com/alameda-neighborhood-in-portland-house-portrait-series/>

Linked to that blog post at the bottom are her paintings of other neighborhoods, as well as the entire Portland project. If you would be interested in having Leisa paint your home, her contact information can be found at that link as well.

Once you’ve captured your house artistically, you can also capture it historically! Neighborhood historian Doug Decker - whose is also a regular writer for AlamedaPDX - prepares architectural, historical, and social histories of homes using interviews, documents and archives, photo research and other explorations to create a thorough understanding of a property through time. He can compile a keepsake book for your home that includes such information as the builder; the style and construction of the home (including original construction and plumbing permits); a listing of the former owners; early aerial photos of the property and early maps of the neighborhood; and a narrative on how the house and neighborhood have evolved over the years. Doug’s research services and contact information can be found here: <https://alamedahistory.org/research-services/>

What better time to commission artwork or research on your home than a time when you’re always in it? You can contemplate the beauty and history of the place that is now, perhaps, also your workplace, your kids’ school, and your summer holiday location!

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The Potential of Parking Strips by Barbara Strunk

Our parking strips are often unrecognized as spaces for beautiful gardens. Looking around our neighborhood we see many homeowners replacing their parking strip lawn with trees and smaller plants. A parking strip is a good place to grow longer-lived plants such as bulbs, perennials, small shrubs, trees, and even vegetables.

A conversion from lawn to a parking strip garden has many benefits. First, a lawn's role in capturing atmospheric carbon is lost when chemicals and fossil fuel-burning machines are used in its maintenance. Second, plantings for pollinators and other insects are crucial for a healthy food web given the reported dramatic decline in insect numbers. Parking strip gardens can provide food for many species, including humans.

Pollinator Parkways, developed in Portland, has a very helpful do-it-yourself manual that covers grass removal, plants, planting designs and much more. <https://pollinatorparkways.weebly.com/>

A lawn-to-garden parking strip conversion need not be done all at once; the project can develop over years. I divided the area into several small gardens that I gradually planted. Two gardens have sun-loving plants and two favor shade plants where our street trees are growing. I put paths in between the gardens to provide access from the street. I also made a narrow path along the curb to make it easier to get out of a car.

Choose plants that you like. If desired take a look online to find out how they grow best: soil, water, light

conditions are all important. You can take into account when plants bloom and choose them so that you have something in bloom spring, summer and fall. A green garden of low shrubs, hostas and ferns is a great idea also.

Amending the soil for best plant growth can be helpful since you may have the natural clay/rock soil widespread in our neighborhood. As you dig new planting holes add humus-rich soil for drainage and nutrients. With this option you are slowly improving your soil without a huge all-at-once project of removal and replacement.

Put in new plants in the fall and spring. All new plants need consistent water so fall planting with warmer soil and rain may make plant establishment easier. Our parking strip garden has been growing for over 20 years and I still water the established plants regularly in hot weather.

Some of the plants we have in our parking strip that pollinators love are: small daffodils, tulips and crocuses, red hot poker, daphne, saxifrage, small hardy geraniums, penstemons, lavender, low growing Oregon Grape, dianthus, verbascum, wall flowers, and sedums and sempervivums. Self-sown plants such as foxglove, feverfew, columbines and larkspur can also thrive. I use Oregon natives and non-natives, but focus on plants that pollinators like. The warmest spot in our garden is the parking strip next to the driveway, where we have large pots in which we plant the heat-loving vegetables like tomatoes, peppers and basil. In spring daffodils emerge between the pots. I frequently try new plants. Sometimes



PARKING STRIPS CAN BE LUSH GARDENS

I move ones that are not doing as well. Taking a risk with a new plant may work out. Give it a try.

Good resources for plant choice suggestions are the staff at nearby nurseries such as Garden Fever, Portland Nursery and Marbott's. I also find a lot of information about growing a wide range of plants from online searches.

Our own neighborhood gardeners are also great resources for how and what to plant in parking strips. Take a walk and find interesting parking strip gardens. Talk with the gardeners, make new friends, and gain some gardening knowledge.

This article was originally published in the July/August 2020 edition of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association newsletter.

Black Lives Matter: Act Now in Your Own Neighborhood by Dan LaGrande

The turmoil and anguish in our city has been hard to watch. I'm sure we can all agree that our fellow Black citizens have long suffered from discrimination and racial prejudice. This has gone on far too long.

So how can we change that? I'm sure every good-hearted person in Portland wants to do something to support the Black Lives Matter movement, and the cry for justice and equality. Yet protests and lawn signs and car parades in the neighborhood only seem to scratch the surface.

The real tasks seem daunting. Demanding action and change from our government can seem like pushing a large boulder up a steep hill. It can be done, but will take time. It is time our Black citizens do not have. They have waited too long. It would seem then, that we each need to look within ourselves. Each of us has the power to begin implementing change immediately.

First, by acknowledging our own failings in the way we treat our Black citizens.

Second, by taking prompt, positive action where we can make a difference – right here in our own neighborhood.

For example, our neighborhood's St. Andrew Nativity School has provided a free middle school education to children from low-income minority families for many years.

My wife and I have been privileged to provide financial support to the school over the years, and attend their

annual fundraisers (until the pandemic halted it this year.) The school needs support now more than ever. You can sponsor a student or donate at <http://www.nativityportland.org/donate>.

Also, many of you have supported The Haitian Project through the annual garage sale at the Madeleine Parish. An Alameda neighbor, Steve Holmes, has led this effort for years. The funds raised help support the Louverture Cleary School in Haiti, the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere. The school provides a tuition-free education to over 350 low-income, academically gifted children each year.

This fundraiser has also been cancelled this year because of the pandemic.

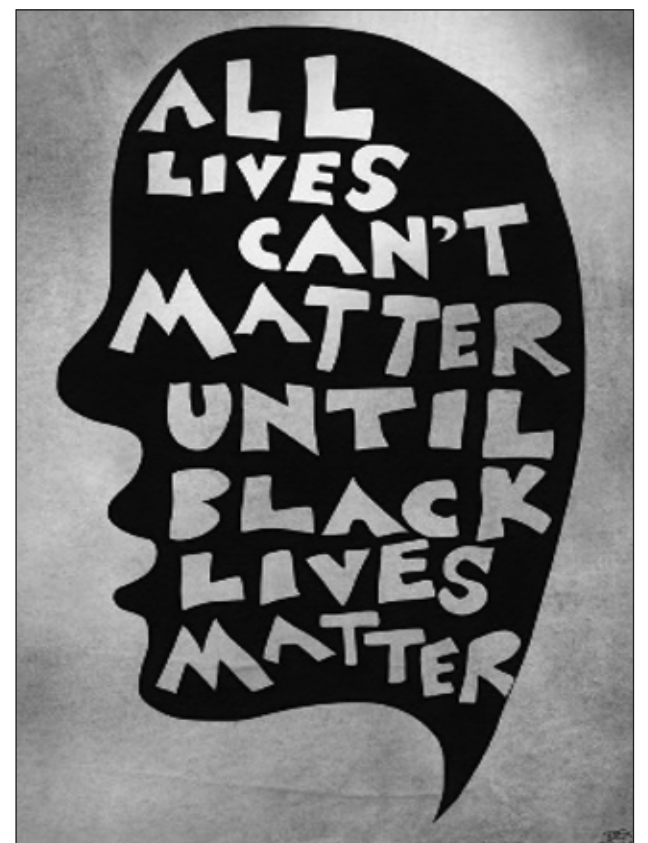
If you'd like to help keep this school open, as well as support The Haitian Project as they build additional schools throughout Haiti, you can contact Steve for details or follow this link: <https://www.haitianproject.org/donate>.

Changing hearts and minds begins with each one of us. We cannot move the government to act tomorrow, or change the attitudes of 300-plus million fellow citizens in the U.S. overnight.

But we can start today here on our block, in our neighborhood, to validate the worth, dignity and potential of our Black citizens. First by looking into our own hearts and, second, by donating to and supporting institutions and individuals who have been making a

positive difference – long before the Black Lives Matter movement came along.

I think it was a Chinese philosopher who observed that a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. We have the opportunity to take the first step for racial justice now – today – here on our own streets, in our own neighborhood.



ARTWORK BY DAVID FRIEDMAN

Picture Windows: “Front Lines” by Gail Jeidy

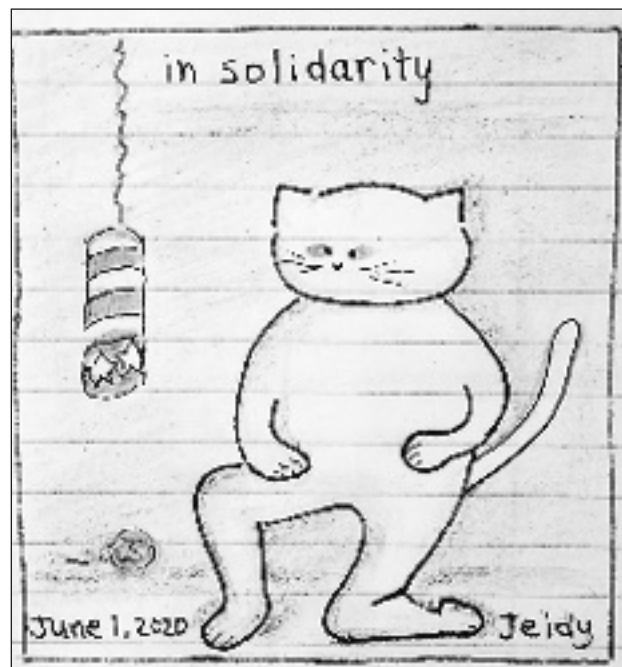
On the Front Lines through Art

Art has long been a powerful means of protest, solidarity and allyship. It can congeal messaging, connect us, help us process what’s going on and aid in grieving and healing. In the aftermath of George Floyd’s killing and the momentum of Black Lives Matter, art has erupted everywhere in Portland via social media and brick and mortar.

My Daily Documentation

My comics practice began with the shelter-at-home order in March and continued through summer. Here are a few panels that mark the mood of late May and June.

The August 6 drawing, reflecting Portland’s unflappable protests, is an adaptation of Pablo Picasso’s 1937 Guernica, one of the most famous protest paintings of all time. I saw the original at the Reina Sofia museum when my youngest daughter studied in Madrid a couple of years ago. The painting, also featured in Alfonso Cuarón’s 2006 movie “Children of Men,” is testimony to art’s power and relevance through the ages.



Beauty, Respect and Love

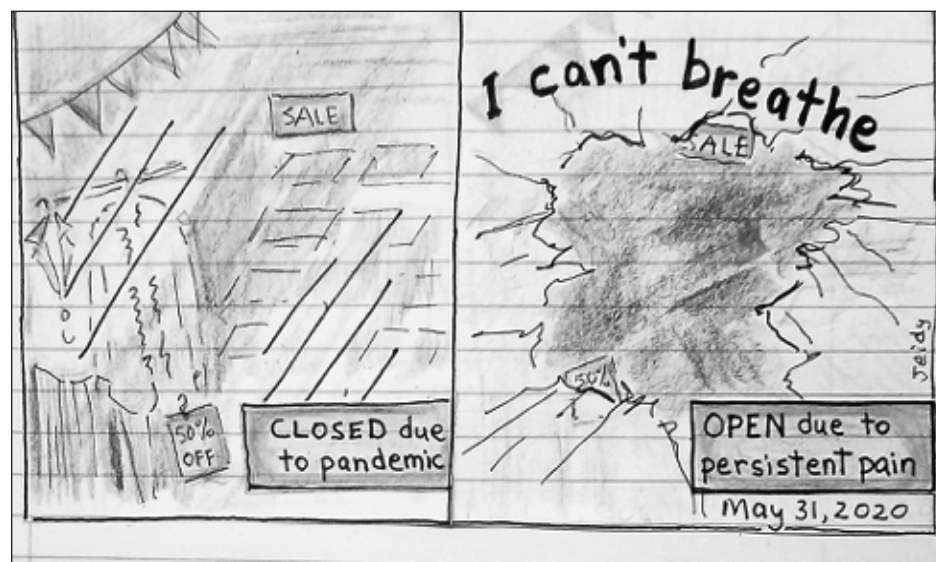
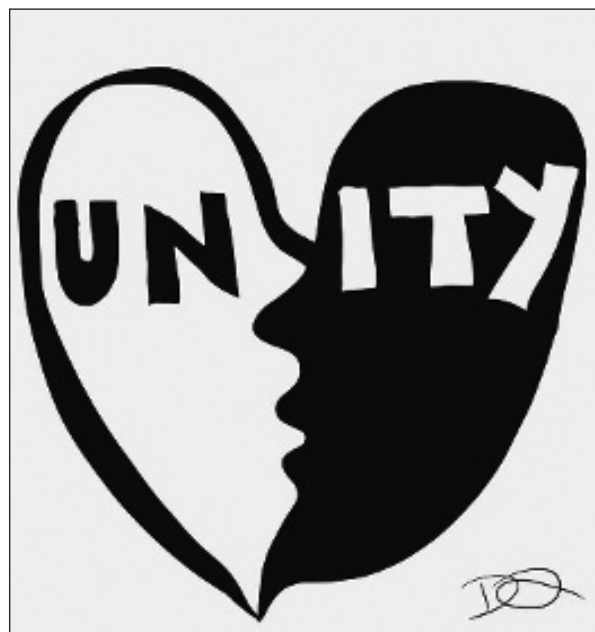
I first met Alameda neighbor David Friedman and his meticulous paper cuttings at NE Portland Open Studios last fall. I became reacquainted with his work after experiencing his prolific output of digital art on social media, sometimes multiple pieces a day, in response to recent events.

Friedman speaks to his creative intent and wellspring, explaining that “My art is trying to express in images the beauty of people and often of Black people. As a Jewish man whose relatives perished in the Holocaust, I have always been aware of the consequences of institutional racism. So I make art that tries to show beauty, to show respect and to show love. And each day I try to be a better artist and a better man. Usually not too successfully but I do sometimes make an impression.”

I believe David’s art and humility consistently make an impression. See the full scope of his work on Friedart.com and on [friedart](https://www.instagram.com/friedart) on Instagram.



DAVID FRIEDMAN



An Empowering Vision

Drive east on NE Fremont and you can’t miss the stunning new mural, PDX Rosie, which spans the west side of Amalfi’s at 47th Avenue. This blast of Rosie-the-Riveter inspiration is a gift for the surrounding neighborhoods.

Rosie “runs in my veins,” explains visionary and Amalfi’s owner Kiauna Floyd, third generation owner of the landmark family restaurant. The mural pays homage to Floyd’s grandmother, who was a riveter in the 1940s and worked at the Kaiser Shipyard in Richmond, Cal. during World War II.

Floyd contracted with Heart & Hustle Productions, who brought artist Edmund “Mundo” Holmes onboard to create the vision of a brown-skinned Rosie. He finessed the image to include “big hoops, top bun,” and more to embody “all women, no matter their socio-economic status, background or ethnicity,” explains Floyd.

“If she can uplift and empower young girls who look like her (including my young daughter), that’s a wonderful bonus, too!”



KIAUNA FLOYD (WITH HER FAMILY) HOPES VIEWERS SEE THE MURAL AS “A BOLD MESSAGE OF LOVE AND RESPECT.”

UPCOMING ALAMEDA NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER

Learning Support

NECC offers Fall youth out-of-school and virtual-learning support! We will have both morning and afternoon three-hour cohorts for elementary-aged children while PPS is holding virtual learning. NECC staff will be supporting students in the morning cohort with online educational instruction, managing their online class attendance and supporting distance learning. In the afternoon, students will have dedicated time to complete homework and other assignments with staff support. Both cohorts will also get time for physical activity and arts/crafts. Go to www.necommunitycenter.org for more information.

Community Courtyard

As part of Portland's Safe Streets - Healthy Businesses program, the NECC has closed a portion of NE 38th Avenue to traffic through October. We are hosting a number of fitness, wellness, and community classes in that space, and are also excited to share it with neighbors and community organizations seeking a place to gather and connect, while remaining physically distanced in an outdoor environment. The schedule of activities is on our website at www.necommunitycenter.org.

THE MADELEINE SCHOOL

Space is now available for Kindergarten - Third Grade!

Call 503-288-9197 or visit: www.themadeleine.edu/school

The Madeleine School Virtual Auction: Totally 80s House Party

Saturday, November 7 @ 7:00 p.m.
Details at www.themadeleine.edu/auction



YOUR ALAMEDA MOMENT OF ZEN

COLUMBIA SLOUGH WATERSHED COUNCIL

Important note: Times are not yet set for some of these events, and due to Covid-19 we are requiring attendees to register in advance so we can maintain safe numbers. Please check out columbiaslough.org or the Columbia Slough Watershed Council social media channels to register for these events as they open up.

Free Public Paddle day at Whitaker Ponds

Tuesday, September 15, 3-7 p.m.

Monday, September 21, 3-7 p.m.

Free rental of canoes/kayaks on the Slough; register at columbiaslough.org.

Third Thursdays at Whitaker Ponds

Thursday, September 17, Time TBD

Show some love to one of our favorite parks by pulling invasive plants, picking up litter, and helping restore this diverse urban ecosystem!

Plants and Pollinators Walk at Whitaker Pond

Saturday, September 19, Time TBD

Held in partnership with the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA). Learn to identify common plants and pollinators, plus learn about traditional indigenous uses of some of our native plants.

Owl Prowl at Whitaker Ponds

Friday, October 16, 7-8 p.m., Time TBD

Learn about some of Portland's most mysterious inhabitants!

No Ivy Day 2020 - Johnson Lake Natural Area

Saturday, October 24, Time TBD

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and Portland Parks and Recreation as we protect the native trees and shrubs of Johnson Lake Natural Area from the invasion of English ivy.

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