



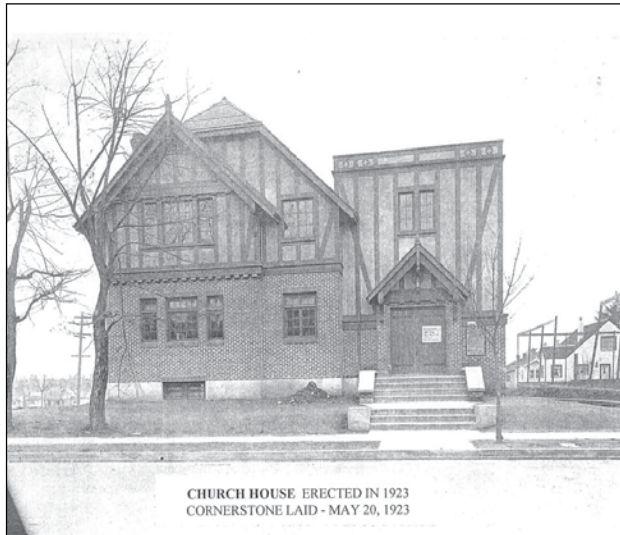
Alameda PDX

Fall 2022

Volume 36 Number 3



CHURCH MEMBERS GATHERED EVERY THURSDAY FOR FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD TO SUPPORT THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT



FREMONT UNITED METHODIST AS IT LOOKED IN 1923. THE CHURCH'S FIRST SERVICES WERE HELD IN THE ALAMEDA SCHOOL BUILDING IN 1922.



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE IS A POPULAR TRADITION AT FUMC

Fremont United Methodist Church Celebrates 100 Years in Alameda

Fremont United Methodist Church will celebrate its 100-year anniversary this fall. To help mark the occasion, longtime member Michele Bernstein shares the church's history, and some of the services Fremont UMC has provided to the community over the years, in the article below. On Page 4, Pastor Erin Martin writes about beginning her service remotely during the pandemic, and how the congregation chose to use that time to undertake a much-needed building renovation. She also looks at the church's past, and outlines her hopes for its future.

Honoring Our History

By Michele Lee Bernstein

Fremont United Methodist Church is located at 2620 NE Fremont, right next to Alameda School. Is that any coincidence? Not at all. In October 1921, the Portland City Church Extension Society of the Methodist Church adopted a resolution that there should be a Protestant Sunday School within walking distance of any new elementary school in Portland. The brand-new Alameda School sparked the beginning of Fremont Street Community Methodist Episcopal Church.

The first service and Sunday school began on July 2, 1922 in the Alameda School building, and ground was broken for the church in November 1922, just as the Alameda neighborhood was developing. The new congregation held its first worship services and laid the cornerstone for the new building in May 1923, beginning its longstanding relationship with the Alameda community.

After years of growth, the "new" sanctuary was added in 1952, and is at the west end of the building you see today. Over the years, Fremont has hosted many community organizations and events, including Red Cross blood drives, Camp Fire meetings, the Puddletown Knitters Guild, and a kindergarten before kindergarten became part of the public school curriculum. Cub Scout Pack 100 and Boy Scout Troop 100 were chartered through Fremont, and concerts and dance performances have been held here. The church is also the site of monthly Alameda Neighborhood Association meetings.

Vacation Bible School was a summer tradition for many years, providing activities for neighborhood children. Fremont has served communities both near and far via Habitat for Humanity, food banks, and youth (Sierra

Service Project) and adult service trips. The church also hosted a fledgling Tongan Methodist congregation before they outgrew the space and moved to a building of their own. The Juniper Preschool and Music Together are current partners in the building.

The Portland Backpack Program that provides weekend lunches for children at risk for hunger began at Fremont through the efforts of member Marilyn Mauch, and is now a thriving, separate 501c3 non-profit. Longtime member Harriett Taylor served as a friendly volunteer in the Alameda School cafeteria for decades (and she's celebrating her centennial birthday this year, too!).

The annual Christmas tree sale has been a part of the church's outreach since 1992. For over a decade, longtime Grant High School teacher and track coach Mark Cotton and his wife, Jane, ran the sale. The event helps fund the church's budget, and also supports the Northeast Emergency Food Program, which is a part of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

It's been an incredible 100 years, and Fremont United Methodist Church hopes to continue - and even deepen - its community ties into the next century.

Living our Hope

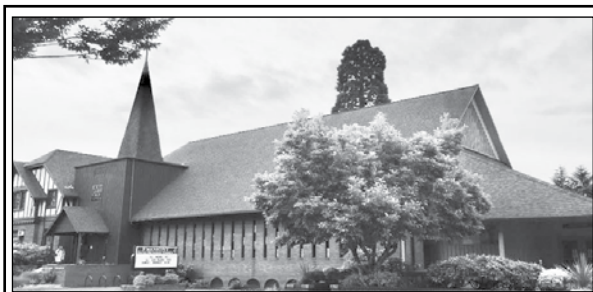
By Rev. Erin Martin

I began serving Fremont United Methodist Church on July 1, 2020 in the middle of the lockdown from the COVID-19 global pandemic. As a result I spent my entire first year with the congregation worshipping alone in the sanctuary, and seeing my congregation through a computer screen on Zoom!

We have been back to in-person worship since July 1, 2021, but like the rest of our community, we continue to struggle through the various surges and variants of the virus. Needless to say, it has been a challenging first few years. Yet, the challenges at Fremont Church have also been amazing opportunities for us.

For example, we used the year that our building was closed to embark on a much-needed Capital Campaign and renovation project. Even as we navigated the stress of a global pandemic, we were able to raise \$350,000

(continued on page 4)



Church to Hold Centennial Celebration

Fremont United Methodist Church will hold a special Centennial worship service on Sunday, October 23, at 10 a.m. to commemorate its 100 years in the Alameda community.

The theme will be "Honoring Our History – Living Our Hope," and all neighbors are invited to share in the celebration.

Following the service there will be a time of fellowship, and a light lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m. The church asks that you RSVP to office@fremontumc.org if you plan to attend.

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Editor's Message

by Annette Bendinelli



No matter what our personal religious beliefs may be, I think we can all agree that faith-based organizations play an important role in our communities. In Alameda, we're fortunate to have two strong churches, with

active members who are striving to make a positive difference.

Community outreach is a core value at Fremont United Methodist Church, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this month. Members of Fremont's congregation regularly participate in youth and

adult service projects, and volunteer with nonprofits including Habitat for Humanity and the Oregon Food Bank. The church also hosts many neighborhood events and activities, from Pinewood Derbies to Red Cross Blood Drives to the annual Christmas tree sale.

Outreach is also key at The Madeleine Catholic Church, another longtime cornerstone of the neighborhood. In addition to supporting a number of nonprofit organizations including the Bybee Lakes Hope Center, the Madeleine recently paired with another east side church to provide volunteers for Family Promise, a national nonprofit that helps families who are experiencing homelessness.

In this issue, we celebrate Fremont United Methodist's anniversary, and learn more about Family Promise

and the Madeleine parishioners who volunteer there. Both of our neighborhood churches do important, inspiring work, and their members continue to strengthen our community in myriad ways.

Before signing off I'll leave you with one quick reminder: Don't forget to join the Alameda Neighborhood Association mailing list! You'll receive notifications about ANA events and volunteer opportunities, and get answers to your neighborhood-related questions or concerns. To sign up, just send your name and email address to alamedapdx@gmail.com. It's a great way to connect with your Alameda neighbors!

See you in December,

— Annette

NECC New Hire to Build on Equity Goals

by Claire Rischiotto

The Northeast Community Center welcomes newly hired Community Program and Partnerships Manager, Emma Simons-Araya.

Simons-Araya joins the NECC after having recently moved from Chicago, where she worked as a youth leadership coordinator. With ten years of nonprofit experience, Simons-Araya brings with her a wealth of leadership skills and a background of building partnerships between diverse communities in cities across the country, including Los Angeles, where she grew up.

NECC's Community Programs and Partnerships Manager role is a new position that was developed as part of the center's commitment to providing community-responsive programming, and expanding equitable access to the center's programs for low-income, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized people, groups, and organizations.

"Everybody should have access to spaces where they feel safe, can express themselves, and learn from each other. And community centers are those spaces," Simons-Araya said.

In 2020, the NECC Board adopted a new Strategic Plan, which set out to build on NECC's successful history as a community-run organization and identify ways to become more equitable and inclusive.

Establishing the Community Program and Partnerships

Manager position is one way of meeting this goal. Simons-Araya is excited to begin her work expanding access to the center's programs, and strengthening NECC's partnerships with local organizations, especially those that serve BIPOC communities and individuals. She notes that her primary goal is to "collaborate to create meaningful and fun programs. And make resources available to people of all ages from all backgrounds in NE Portland."

Throughout her career working in the nonprofit sector, Simons-Araya noted one of the biggest challenges for people trying to access community programs is a lack of financial resources. In her position, Simons-Araya plans to bridge this gap by expanding on systems the NECC already has in place. This includes the NECC Community Fund—a financial assistance program that applies to programs and activities at the center, covering everything from swim lessons to fitness memberships.

The NECC has made several strides already in expanding access to its programs. The average program fee for those participating in the Community Fund was reduced by 85%, amounting to more than \$46,000 awarded to individuals and families so far in 2022. And with Simons-Araya on board, the NECC is excited to surpass this success and further build on its commitment to building a more equitable and inclusive community organization.



EMMA SIMONS-ARAYA, NEW COMMUNITY PROGRAM AND PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER AT NECC

"I think everybody in our community has something to bring to the table," said Simons-Araya. "My job is to look at what those things are and how we can utilize them in this space, grow our community, and take advantage of those really rich resources we already have."

To contact Emma Simons-Araya, email programs@necommunitycenter.org

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 Tuesday of every month at 7pm at Fremont United Methodist Church.

AlamedaPDX is a quarterly publication of the Alameda Neighborhood Association, Portland, Oregon.

Dist. by the USPS in December, March, June, and September.

AlamedaPDX is available online at alamedaportland.com.

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Publication dates:	Deadlines:
December 10	November 10
March 10	February 10
June 10	May 10
September 10	August 10

Please submit pdf, jpg, or Adobe Distiller X-1A compliant artwork at 300dpi or greater.

In Medio Begins Second Season at Augustana Lutheran

In Medio chamber choir will kick off its second season of performances November 4 at 7 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church.

The choir held its first two concerts in 2019, paused during 2020, and regrouped the following year with 30 singers. Despite ever-changing Covid guidelines, In Medio managed to present its first full season of four concerts in 2021.

The choir formed in August 2019, when John Eisemann, the choir director at Grant High School, decided to form a new choral group in Portland. After many years of singing with another choral organization, he noticed there weren't many recent college graduates entering the choral scene.

Eisemann had a hunch there were plenty of people out there with years of college choir experience and/or music degrees who just hadn't found the right fit—and

he was right. After a few “cold call” emails to friends, word spread and 19 singers formed In Medio (Latin for “in the midst”).

Now, the choir is set to begin its second season. The group will sing Josef Rheinberger's rarely performed Mass in E-flat. The mass was written to counter the Cecilian Movement - a regressive, conservative movement in church music in the late 19th century. According to Eisemann, this a cappella masterwork “incorporates the intricacies of renaissance polyphony while also utilizing the expressive and rich harmonic language of the late romantic era. Think Palestrina and Brahms all mashed together in a 23-minute epic.”

Additionally, In Medio has commissioned three world premieres by young, up-and-coming composers. They will respond to Rheinberger's work and explore how artists can subvert regressive political movements.



IN MEDIO CHOIR TO SING AT AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN

Admission to the concert is by donation, and tickets are available at inmediochoir.org. The choir hopes you'll join them for a beautiful and exciting evening of singing—for choral nerds and novices alike.

Augustana Lutheran Church is on the corner of NE 15th Avenue and Knott Street.

RubyViolet Skincare Boutique Returns to NE Alberta

RubyViolet Skincare, a woman-owned, highly personalized esthetics boutique with an almost 20-year history in Portland, has moved back to the Alberta neighborhood where it began. The boutique celebrated its “Grand Re-Opening” recently, 12 years after leaving its original location, which was just blocks from the building it now occupies at 1829 NE Alberta.

“I launched my esthetics business on Alberta Street in 2004, when the business district was in its infancy. I feel like RubyViolet blossomed on Alberta just as the neighborhood's business district began to flourish,” said owner Sarah Szper. “This feels like an incredible homecoming, and a full-circle moment in my RubyViolet journey.”

According to Szper, RubyViolet Skincare provides a holistic approach to skin care, and nurtures the whole self by offering “a sacred space to heal both the body and spirit.”

After six years at her original location, Szper moved to a different Portland location in 2010. She also moved once

more before setting up shop back on Alberta. Her skincare boutique joins a number of other locally owned businesses in the 1920's era building, including the Alberta Street Gallery, Psychic Sisters, The Motion Massage Studio, Dynamic Acupuncture LLC, and Advanced Medical Aesthetics, Kim Clark.

Szper noted, “It's a priority to me to honor and support the history of the African American community on this street by ensuring that my esthetics boutique is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse community. I specialize in all skin tones from darker to lighter, and all skin types. I strive to celebrate ethnic and gender diversity.”

“Since Ruby Violet's inception here almost 20 years ago, my goal has been to actively contribute to creating a sustainable, equitable, and inclusive business district here in Alberta. Both within this beautiful, historic building and all along this street, I'm committed to further developing this business district into a thriving and vibrant creative arts destination.”



RUBYVIOLET SKINCARE OWNER SARAH SZPER
(PHOTO BY GREGORY BARTNING)

RubyViolet is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.rubyvioletskincares.com>.



Call for Volunteers

Position:

Communications Coordinator for the Alameda Neighborhood Association

It's time for a fresh start & to reconnect with our community. Join us to coordinate and update the Alameda Neighborhood Association communications strategy & implementation process.

You:

Enthusiastic individual with experience in social media, website functionality, handling media inquires and other communications tools & methods.

Us:

Fun loving volunteer group dedicated to helping the members of the Alameda Neighborhood community reach each other and highlight important neighborhood events / impacts.

Contact:

For more information or to express an interest call/email Alamedatreasurer@gmail.com or 503-312-8102

Your Neighborhood Needs You!



(continued from page 1)

to completely redo many of our spaces. We hardwired our building for Wi-Fi. We shifted every space to multi-purpose, and we began reimagining what it might look like to offer our building back to the neighborhood as a hub for community events and gatherings.

As we enter a new century of ministry our hope is to open our doors even more, and offer our spaces to the neighborhood to connect, meet, learn, laugh and serve together. Maybe you have some ideas about what could happen here? If so, I would love to discuss them with you.

We have also been on an incredible journey of reckoning with our history as a predominantly white congregation. After the murder of George Floyd in 2020, we gathered every Thursday afternoon for five months outside our building to keep vigil with Portland and the world, insisting that “Black Lives Matter.”

Yet, we also know that protest is only the beginning of deeper change. Since then, we have been on a two-year journey of learning our land story at Fremont. We

learned about how the land we occupy was first stewarded by nearby bands of the Chinook. To honor that history and to hold ourselves accountable to the complicity that Christian churches had in eradicating Indigenous people and their customs, we have introduced a land acknowledgment at the beginning of our worship service.

We also learned about the red-lining practices in Portland real estate, and the restrictive covenants in our neighborhood that were intended to prevent Blacks and Chinese from owning homes here. For our congregation, future change begins with first telling the truth about our place in history, and then working for a more just world.

We are so excited to be celebrating our first 100 years. So much has changed since Fremont Church first opened its doors, and we hope that in a spirit of humility, repentance, community and great joy, we will continue to be a place of love, justice, compassion and service to the Alameda neighborhood and beyond.



PASTOR ERIN MARTIN OF FREMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thirsty Dogs, Plants at Wilshire Park Need Your Help

Last year Friends of Wilshire Park (FoWP) launched a campaign to raise funds for a piped-in water source for dogs in the park’s off-leash area. Working with Portland Parks & Recreation, FoWP set a fundraising goal of \$22,000, and now they’re getting close to meeting that goal with just over \$17,000 raised.

If you’ve ever watched the dogs playing in the off-leash area, you know they get thirsty! If you would like to contribute to the Wilshire dog park water fountain, you can make a tax-free donation at friendsofwilshirepark.org/donate or go to the

project’s GoFundMe account at <https://gofund.me/15cb44b3>.

And park plants need water, too! FoWP recently added to the native plantings along the south side of the park, and until the new plants are established they require a little hydration from time to time.

To assist with this, FoWP is asking for volunteers to help with watering for about one hour a week (hoses are provided). This is a great way to take a little time in nature, enjoy the beauty of the park, and say hello to neighbors passing by. If you’re interested, email friendsofwilshirepark@gmail.com



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Fixing the Perfect Labyrinth by Doug Decker

Second in a series about the hidden maps—called plats—that make up the neighborhood we know today.

Those nice sweeping bends leading north from Knott Street between NE 29th and 31st in the Alameda neighborhood are not there by accident: they were put there on purpose more than one hundred years ago to solve a very specific problem.

Understanding Plats and Subdivisions

To understand what happened here, it helps to know about plats and subdivisions, and to know that Portland is made up of more than 900 plats. A plat is a localized engineering plan and legal survey for development of a subdivision that shows the precise location of streets and lots.

Back in the day, developers gave these plats names that would catch a prospective home buyer's eye, or that meant something to the developer.

Today's Alameda neighborhood, for instance, is made up of 23 separate plats, all filed at different times by different developers who were competing with each other and speculating on market conditions when they bought chunks of what had been old homesteads and farms claimed in the 1850s and 1860s. There was indeed an Alameda Park plat (filed in 1909 by the Alameda Land Company), but it's only one piece of what the City of Portland today refers to as the Alameda neighborhood. Twenty-two other subdivision plats—with names now lost to time except on property legal descriptions—make up today's neighborhood.

Here in today's Alameda we're made up of the following plats: Alameda Park, Olmsted Park, Meadow Park, Linlithgow Park, Homedale, Irvington, Irvingdale, Irvingwood, Edgemont, Charleston's Addition, Pearson's Addition, Stanton Street Addition, Hudson's Addition, Gile Addition, Town of Wayne, Town of Wayne Replat, Quinn's Addition to Town of Wayne, Waynewood, Dunsmeade, Hillside, George Place, Bowering Donation Land Claim Tract, Norton's Subdivision, and Gleneyrie. Phew. All filed by different owners/developers with the county surveyor in the 40 years between 1882-1922.

Remembering the deep history of these lands

Going back in time, it's important to remember that before these lands were claimed as homesteads by the first white Euro-American arrivals, the federal government forcibly dispossessed the area's indigenous people from these lands. All of us in the Portland area live today on lands taken by the U.S. from Chinookan tribes and bands; their former home lands since time immemorial.

This area was part of the City of East Portland until 1891

The east side wasn't actually Portland until after 1891 - it was East Portland, a separate city. Prior to that, we were three separate cities sharing some limited common infrastructure, but with different character and focus: Portland (on the west side of the river), East Portland and Albina.

In 1891—in an attempt to roll together the greater Portland area population into one number that would intimidate rival Seattle, which was growing fast—the three towns consolidated into one (46,385 people in Portland + 10,000 people in East Portland + 5,000 people in Albina = 61,385 people total in the Portland “metropolitan” area). Take that, Seattle (total 1890 population: 42,837).

There had been a boomlet of development about the time the transcontinental railroad arrived in Portland in the spring of 1882, when some plats were filed in East Portland including “The Town of Wayne” plat in the heart of today's Alameda. After the Lewis and Clark

Centennial Exposition in 1905, which put Portland on the map, more plats were filed, and then again during the 1920s, after the influenza pandemic.

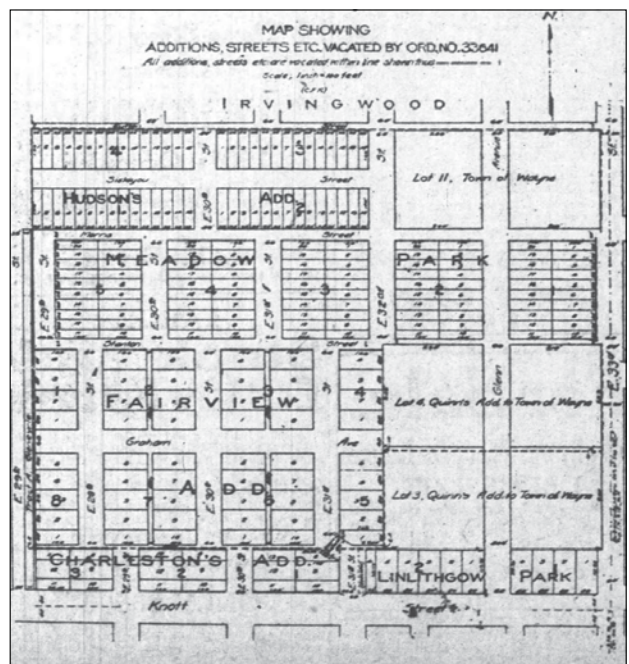
But let's get back to the bends.

Too many disconnected plats – a real estate collision

The helter-skelter nature of platting before we became part of Portland—fueled in part by spikes in the real estate market which drove owners to create small, disconnected parcels on paper that were never actually developed—resulted in plats with different types of street and lot layouts. As larger, newer and better-planned subdivisions spread out to divide up more territory, the patchwork northwest corner of 33rd and Knott became a vortex of confusion. The city coined a perfect term for it at the time: “misfit platting.”

Some plats had alleys, some didn't. Some had many narrow lots. Some had fewer larger lots. There was only one through street and it had varying widths. Corners didn't line up. There was no street naming protocol. In short, it was a mess.

But the area was still just multiple, hopeful plans on paper—these were open fields well into the late 19-teens, even though more than 45 owners had already bought property—and people continued buying, holding and even trading lots as a speculative investment. Here's what it looked like by about 1915:



THIS DIAGRAM FROM THE OREGON JOURNAL ON MAY 20, 1918 SHOWS THE JUMBLE OF PLATS THAT USED TO OCCUPY THE AREA BOUNDED TODAY BY NE SISKIYOU ON THE NORTH, KNOTT ON THE SOUTH, 33RD ON THE EAST AND 29TH ON THE WEST. THE PLATS INCLUDE: TOWN OF WAYNE, (1882); QUINN'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF WAYNE, (1886); HUDSON'S ADDITION, (1892); FAIRVIEW ADDITION, (1889); MEADOW PARK (1890); AND CHARLESTON'S ADDITION, (1895). A CAREFUL EXAMINATION SHOWS THAT EACH PLAT IS ORGANIZED DIFFERENTLY. NOTE THAT THE FAIRVIEW ADDITION EVEN HAD ALLEYS.

This diagram from the Oregon Journal on May 20, 1918 shows the jumble of plats that used to occupy the area bounded today by NE Siskiyou on the north, Knott on the south, 33rd on the east and 29th on the west. The plats include: Town of Wayne, (1882); Quinn's Addition to the Town of Wayne, (1886); Hudson's Addition, (1892); Fairview Addition, (1889); Meadow Park (1890); and Charleston's Addition, (1895). A careful examination shows that each plat is organized differently. Note that the Fairview Addition even had alleys.

In the early 1910s, with construction and sales well underway in nearby Irvington, Alameda, Beaumont and Rose City Park, developers turned to the next nearby open lands in the pipeline for development and found this total mess. The Oregon Journal, reporting on the problem, summed it up nicely:

“The streets are not in conformity with the streets of adjoining districts and the addition is said to be a perfect labyrinth.”



THE OFFICIAL PLAT OF WAYNEWOOD FILED WITH THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY SURVEYOR ON FEBRUARY 2, 1918 CONTAINING THE BRAND-NEW RETITLED LOTS AND REDRAWN STREETS. IN ADDITION TO UNDERSTANDING HOW THE CURVES CAME TO BE, THE REPLATTING PROCESS ALSO EXPLAINS THE MISALIGNED CORNER AT NE 29TH AND SISKIYOU.

There was only one real solution that came to mind: Go back to the drawing board and replat the whole area, something never done on this scale (and perhaps never since). But how you do that with specific lots already owned by dozens of hopeful investors in planned subdivisions that had been legally filed and on the books for as long as 30 years?

You see the problem now.

In 1915, the city's engineering office developed an ambitious plan which would require that every property owner temporarily transfer their property title to a single holding company. That clean slate would then allow the title company, under the city engineer's watchful eye, to draw lines, keeping everyone whole, eliminating the labyrinth, adding those curves, and retitling every single lot back out of the temporary trust. The result was a brand-new subdivision called Waynewood, a tip of the hat we suppose to the old Town of Wayne plat and the Irvingwood subdivision just to the north.

Today all of the energy and consternation that went into that process is completely invisible to us here in their imagined future (at least until now), our only clues the graceful curved streets that lead north from Knott Street. Those curves are reflected south of Knott as well, but they came later when the subdivision known as Dolph Park was platted in 1924, and that's another story.

In the next edition of AlamedaPDX, we'll explore the history of other nearby plats whose names are no longer in common use or memory.



Neighborhood historian Doug Decker prepares history studies of homes, leads history walks, and makes presentations to groups interested in learning about local history. To learn more about Alameda and surrounding neighborhoods, visit Doug's website at www.alamedahistory.org.

Do You have an Alameda History Question?

Are you interested in learning more about the history of our amazing neighborhood, your street, or the surrounding area? If so, AlamedaPDX and Doug Decker invite you to send your question to doug@alamedahistory.org, and Doug will respond in our next issue. Submissions must be 75 words or less.

The Madeleine Pairs with Family Promise to Help Houseless Families *by Dan LaGrande*

We have become almost numb to the seemingly countless adults experiencing homelessness in neighborhoods and business districts throughout Portland.

But though we rarely see them on the streets, there are also over 3,000 children in Portland Public Schools identified as being homeless. This number may be shocking to many of us, but volunteers in Alameda and other eastside neighborhoods recognize the problem and are joining in an effort to find a solution.

After a delay due to the pandemic, the non-profit Family Promise Metro East became operational in mid-July and is now providing temporary housing, meals and many support services to homeless families with children.

"Our focus is strictly on families," said Michele Veenker, executive director of Family Promise Metro East, "because every child deserves a warm, safe place to sleep at night." Veenker said the need is huge, as 22,000 children in Oregon have been identified as being without a home.

Family Promise is unique in not only focusing just on families with children, but also in providing a comprehensive program of prevention and diversion, shelter, stabilization and additional community services. And this work relies on massive volunteer support.

Veenker also said it is important for volunteers and donors to know that before a family is admitted to the program, the adults must pass a background check and commit to being clean and sober.

In Portland the backbone of Family Promise is the faith-based community, because regardless of different denominations, a

core belief is the importance of caring for others - especially the poor, the marginalized, and those afflicted with mental and physical issues.

Alameda's Madeleine Parish on NE 24th Avenue is one of the support congregations paired with Ascension Parish on SE 76th Avenue. As of early August, Family Promise had seven host sites that provide meals and a place to sleep for families experiencing homelessness, and seven sites to provide additional volunteer support. The organization is looking for more places of worship to participate, and welcome any other community groups to join the program, too.

"We are gratified with our progress, and are working toward our goal of thirteen host sites and 26 support sites," Veenker said. "We are seeking more volunteers and we are appealing for donations — whatever anyone can give would be a huge help."

The service model of Family Promise is based on a host site (which most often is a congregation) to provide overnight accommodations and meals for 3 to 5 families. They are paired with two support groups who provide volunteers to serve at the host site. There is also a single, centralized day center, where all client families spend the day and receive a myriad of services.

Joe and Donna Wujek, parishioners at the Madeleine, are among the Metro East volunteers. I talked with them one early morning in the Ascension school cafeteria, where they had spent the night to be available in case the two families with children staying there had any needs or emergencies during the night.

"Staying here overnight may seem challenging to some, but

every volunteer is well-prepared because of the excellent training we receive," Donna explained. "Procedures and duties are clearly explained, each task is well defined, so volunteers have the resources, skills and confidence they need in whatever capacity they serve."

Joe added that the way Family Promise is structured, and the training it offers, makes it easy and rewarding to participate as a volunteer. He also observed that "there is a lot of anger in our society today, but the thing we should all be angry about is the thousands of children sleeping in cars, and we should all join in doing something about it."

The Wujeks said they are volunteering with Family Promise because they believe the organization is doing something positive and practical to help families without homes, and that "it is a cause worthy of our time and our financial support. If everyone in our community will do a little, it will truly make a big difference," Donna noted

Joe had just driven one of the families to the large day center at Community of Christ Church on NE Couch, which becomes a family's "home base" during the day. Case managers at the day center work with each family to meet their basic needs, connect them with community resources, and help them seek employment and housing.

During the day, all client families are transported (usually by mini-bus) to the day center. Volunteer drivers are currently needed to help with this. They remain there until late afternoon, when they are transported back to their host church. There they have their evening meal and then spend the night in their individual family sleeping quarters.

(continued on page 7)



MICHELE VEENKER (L), GIVES NEW VOLUNTEER LISA HUGHES A TOUR OF THE FAMILY PROMISE DAY CENTER AT COMMUNITY OF CHRIST CHURCH.



MADELEINE VOLUNTEERS JOE AND DONNA WUJEK IN THE CAFETERIA AT ASCENSION CHURCH, A FAMILY PROMISE HOST SITE.



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(continued from Page 6)

At Ascension families have their own fabric-covered, private enclosures, resembling a large tent in the school cafeteria. It is a simple, portable structure with mattresses on cots, a dressing table, and chairs. For very young children there are cribs. Families use the men's and women's bathrooms in the cafeteria, which also have showers.

Families can also use the day centers as their permanent address for up to a year, so they have the stability they need for applying for jobs, housing, social services and other resources. During this time families also receive help in connecting with other community services for tenancy training, home ownership, educational and career pathways, technology support, as well as resources for health and wellness.

Looking ahead, Veenker is continuing to seek volunteers and to encourage individuals and organizations to provide financial support.

"No donation is too small," she explained. "One local business has employees that each invest a few dollars a month and purchase our hygiene items, which is wonderful."

She is also reaching out to faith and other organizations, and asking them to consider using their mosques, synagogues and other meeting spaces in support of families who are accepted into the Family Promise program.

"I would also be delighted if service clubs, book clubs, golf and tennis groups, and any group of like-minded people from leisure or work would commit to serving as volunteers, or band together for fundraising," she added.

Family Promise affiliates are located in more than 200 communities in 43 states, including Oregon. Their goal is to have 200,000 volunteers serving 1 million children by the end of this decade. Family Promise is already the leading national organization working to prevent and end family homelessness.

As of now, the results are impressive. Family Promise often provides families with their only shelter option in a community. On average, about 80 percent of the families served find housing within nine weeks. And with community services and support, most of those families stay housed.

However, much remains to be done to help the mostly unseen families with children, who are often in desperate need. To contribute financial support or to volunteer, visit familypromisemetroeast.org or call 503-349-7627.



JOE AND DONNA WUJEK FROM THE MADELEINE SHOW A PARTITIONED FAMILY SLEEPING AREA AT THE ASCENSION CHURCH FAMILY PROMISE SITE.

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Living with Difficult Neighbors: Coyotes in Alameda by Barbara Brower

An ill-fated coyote-tracking expedition some winters back marked a turning point in my relationship with the coyotes that had been seen off and on around the neighborhood. I followed tracks in the snow across a neighbor's yard and down a slope on Alameda Ridge, then tried to jump over a short retaining wall as the coyote had done. Lacking the coyote's grace—and two extra legs—I jumped, slid, crashed, and cracked some ribs.

My crash landing became the site for the trail cam my student Zuriel (Rasmussen) Van Belle set up. We were certain that sooner or later a coyote would trigger the camera, so we could add camera-trap data to the sightings records building up on our Portland Urban Coyote Project (PUCP) website.

It turns out there is a lot of animal activity in Alameda, day and night. With the camera set to video, we captured squirrels, rats, rabbits, raccoons, possums, the odd cat, and song sparrows, and song sparrows, and song sparrows. We also recorded hours of blowing grasses and branches, and after I set up the camera on my own, a lot of shadows on the wall. Then, finally, one day, this:

But the moment that transformed my academic interest in these wily urban canids into something more personal came with a different video capture in June of 2017:



I quite simply fell in love. Look at those ears! Look at that sweet face, those intelligent eyes! Anyone who has ever loved a puppy would fall for this one!

We now know a fair bit about this coyote, thanks to this camera, others in the neighborhood, PUCP reports (she is distinctive, and often spotted), and her and her family's repeated visits to my yard and street. It was to feed her babies, I imagine, that she and/or her mate collected two of my hens last spring. The renters who were near witnesses were horrified. But these were new hens, and I didn't know them, really. While I was sorry for their terror and missed their peak egg-laying, I was comforted thinking of hungry coyote puppies enjoying their chicken dinners.

I reacted differently this spring, when the alarm calls of Lucille, my surviving old pet hen, alerted me to a predator threat. I burst out the door (bellowing so loudly it scared the other people in the house), and routed the hunter, seeing the coyote's tail-end as she took off down the ridge. Not THIS Chicken!

There is a lesson here: If you see a coyote, whether it's

trotting down the street or after your chickens, don't try to make friends with it. For the coyote's sake, yours, your neighbors', and your pets', coyotes need to be fearful around humans. Shout, throw things—but don't get close. Hazing (a method that uses deterrents to move an animal out of an area) is critically important. Armed conflict is a very bad idea, and the cause of a significant percentage of the very few reported coyote "attacks" on humans. For information on coyote hazing guidelines, go to humansociety.org/resources/coyote-hazing.

Letting my chickens range freely around my yard, as I do sometimes, is irresponsible, an open invitation to a hungry coyote. A key factor in urban coyote survival is human complicity in making cities inviting coyote habitat. It is on us to keep coyotes from associating dinner with human habitation, whether that dinner is free-ranging poultry, pet food left outside, fallen fruit, or uncovered garbage—or outdoor cats and untended small dogs.

A recent incident again transformed the way I see urban coyotes, and increased my empathy for those who see them as a frightening problem, not the gift of wildness they are for others. A few weeks ago, my neighbors and I were awakened by a chorus of coyote yips and howls, and the frantic barks, it seemed, of a little dog in mortal danger.

"It sounded like someone being murdered!" said one neighbor, and that's reportedly what it was. A sighting logged on to the Portland Urban Coyote Project the next day said coyotes had hunted and eaten a small dog.

The report noted two coyotes; other neighbors who came out to investigate saw as many as three. It sounded like a pack of 10, but coyotes are famous for varied vocalizations that make a few sound like many. To me, the excited yips and barks came across as celebratory—a coyote pack high-fiving one another after taking out a dog. But it's a popular misconception that coyote choruses signal successful hunts, and the scholarly literature tells us there's no evidence for that. Those yip-howl choruses are about reunions or territorial defense, but not a kill. So what was happening that night?

While we have much to learn about Portland coyotes' territorial boundaries, we know they maintain them.

(continued on page 12)



I cannot begin to tell you how exciting this was for us. Zuriel was checking the video on a laptop at my dining table. From the adjacent kitchen I heard her gasp, and shrieked myself at this face on the screen. Our first coyote on film.

The camera continued to record squirrels and birds in abundance, with the occasional reward of a coyote or two.

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Ever-Changing Flagpole Entertains Passersby by Blythe Knott

Flags, across time and geography, have served many purposes. They typically display the insignia of a state, an organization, an office, an individual, an armed force, or a community. They're light, so they can blow in the wind, and are generally imprinted on both sides so that there usually isn't a distinction between a "front" and a "back."

Originally, flags were mainly used in warfare, to easily allow for the identification of friend or foe on a battlefield or at sea. Now they're mainly used for signaling, decoration, and display. They demonstrate pride in a country; a sports team; a college; a state... I mean, who doesn't get teary when a country's flag is raised and its anthem played in Olympics medal ceremonies? Flags hold meaning, both practical and emotional, and thus hold many important roles in our lives.

For Michael Funke, flags have become a hobby – maybe even a passion. Funke and his family moved into The Shaver House on the 3100 block of Alameda in March of 2021. The house was built in 1914 by steamship company owner Delmer Shaver, and if you were to walk along that stretch of Alameda you would certainly notice it - not only because it's a beautiful home, but also because the front features a 30-foot flagpole. The pole is made of solid Douglas fir and is, according to a longtime neighbor, "pretty old."

The flagpole was in disrepair when Funke and his family moved in. No company would take the job of fixing it, so he and his dad did the work themselves. That involved hinging the 30-foot structure down by hand and then rebuilding and repainting it while it lay on its side. Once the pole was in shipshape, it was time to start flying some flags.

A self-described "geography buff," Funke had about 10 of them on hand. He quickly added more based on his own affiliations, and also to make sure he'd have a "signature flag" for guests. (When I went to visit, Funke asked what my interests were so he could have signature flags flying in my honor. I'll note later what they were).

Funke changes the flags every day or two. So naturally, people walking by make a point of checking out his latest choices. Early on, they would stop and ask questions of whoever was out in front of the house. Funke noted that "people (we call them 'flag fans') kept asking my wife about the flag that was flown on a given day, but she didn't know since it's my geeky hobby. So I built a little stand with explanations of the flags to allow her to leave the house in peace. I've written over 130 explanations to date, and do a few more each week."

As a child, Funke spent time after school tracing maps he got as gifts. Interest in maps turned into an interest in flags, and now at the Shaver House, Funke rotates his collection of close to 300 flags up the flagpole. He buys a few more each week, mostly on eBay or Craigslist to keep costs somewhat in check.

Funke has flags for countries, states, sports, occasions, and more. He explains he picks flags for given days "based on dates of meaning, guests or friends that have a tie to the flag, or sometimes just because they look interesting. I fly a few sports-related flags if there's a game day, like if my son has a soccer game I fly my Northeast United flag."

Funke notes that "neighbors seem to love the flags and read the explanations. Alameda is a great walking street, so we get a lot of passersby. I've had people leave notes or flags, and it's all been positive, engaging, and fantastic."



MICHAEL FUNKE (R) AND HIS FATHER, B.J. SCHENCK TEAMED UP TO REPAIR THE FLAGPOLE



FUNKE CONSTRUCTED A STAND TO DISPLAY THE HISTORY OF EACH FLAG



THE FLAGS PROVIDE A COLORFUL POINT OF INTEREST ON NE ALAMEDA

He adds, "I like to chat with people about the flags. We have neighbors from countries across the world (including Hungary, Iceland, and Singapore) that I've met and gotten to know because of the flags, and that's one of the things I love most about the hobby - it facilitates getting to know peoples' stories."

As I said, Funke asked me about my interests before I visited. When I arrived at his house, his pole included the flags of Ukraine (which has been flying for the past several months, Portland and Nepal; the Suffragette flag, the United Nations flag, and the Venetian War Flag. Hard to guess what I'm about based on all that!

As many as eight flags can fly on the flagpole at one time. The associated explanations for each one - laminated and posted in the stand out front - are informative, charming and funny.

In the hour I spent visiting with Funke, one person pulled up in their car to read the descriptions, and several walkers stopped to look at the flags. Clearly this is a major point of interest in the neighborhood. You'll definitely want to wander by and check it out for yourself.



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City Eases Requirements for Solar Panels by Heath Kearns

Recent changes that took effect in the City of Portland Building Department in March have opened the possibility of installing solar panels for many homes that previously were unable to meet City requirements.

Previously, historic resource reviews were required for any proposed solar installation unless it met a very specific exemption criteria. This included facing away from the street, with a three-foot setback from all roof edges. This significantly reduced the usable roof area for homes that could meet these criteria, hurting the financial viability of the project in most cases.

For projects that could not meet this criteria, the historic resource review required the solar array not to

be visible from the street, which was achievable in very few circumstances.

Now, as a result of Portland's Historic Resources Code Project (portland.gov/bps/planning/historic-resources/hrcp), street-facing solar is allowed in historic districts without a historic resource review, provided the solar is parallel with and less than eight inches from the roof surface, and eight inches from the roof edges. This code change makes installation more attainable for homeowners and businesses that are interested in solar as an environmentally sustainable energy source.

Heath Kearns is a Solar Sales Engineer at Imagine Energy in Milwaukie, Oregon



THE CITY HAS EASED REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION

Support Local Food Producers at the King Farmers Market by Stephanie Celin

Celebrating its 13th season at NE 7th Avenue & Wygant Street, King Farmers Market hosts a variety of local farmers, ranchers, fishers, specialty food artisans, and hot food vendors each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through November 20.

The market averages about 30 vendors on any given Sunday. Shoppers can find multiple farm stands selling fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, cut flowers, pasture-raised meat, small-batch whole grain cookies, crackers, and bread. Fermented foods, fresh-pressed juice, non-dairy milk alternatives, sustainably harvested wild seafood, herbal medicinal tinctures, locally crafted hard spirits, and organic vegan chocolate products are also available, as well as handmade ethnic sauces and dips.

Interested in seeing the vendors who will be at upcoming markets? Visit the King Farmers Market page on the Portland Farmers Market website at portlandfarmersmarket.org to view a list of sellers and a market map.

Come for the food and stay for the music! From 12 - 2 p.m., local musicians of different genres (acoustic, rock, reggae and more) will be performing sets. Grab a breakfast burrito, a tamale, or a pastry and coffee and find a spot on the King Park lawn to enjoy the tunes.

Most vendors accept credit cards, however due to high fees, they typically prefer cash. King Farmers Market also accepts SNAP, WIC checks (not WIC cards), Senior Farm Direct vouchers, Veggie Prescriptions, and Sisters of the Road Fresh Change. SNAP shoppers can receive Double Up Food Bucks, up to \$20 daily. Visit the Market information booth to learn more.

You can also find news about other Portland Farmers Markets at portlandfarmersmarket.org or follow them on Instagram [@portlandfarmers](https://www.instagram.com/portlandfarmers) for more frequent updates about vendors, what's in season, and special events.

See you at the market!



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Picture Windows: Make Room For Art! by Gail Jeidy

I first met Samyak Yamauchi -- Sam -- and her dog on the sidelines of an Alameda soccer game when our now 40-year-old sons were seven-year-olds, racing down the field, while Sam's husband, one of the gentle coaches, urged them on.

Years later, we became neighbors, and I discovered Sam was an artist. She'd been creating with her hands since she was a child, but her work blossomed after retiring from K-1 teaching a decade ago.

"Children's books are a strong influence," she explains, "worlds where dogs talk, and everything is alive." Sam's muse, her dog Dash, and other lovable pups pop up in her emotive work as do a myriad of faces and figures along with strings of paper dolls she loved to make as a child.

Sam ventured into art by creating glass mosaics in her backyard studio, finding the direction for each piece from the woodgrain in the boards she used as a base. She soon was applying the same approach to painting, discovering images and stories through clues in the boards before her materials expanded to include canvas and paper.

Sam considers making art "playing." Connections and relationships emerge organically as she wields her brush. Her work is intuitive: its depth, palpable.

"My job is to let it happen and not get in the way," she says of her process.

Perhaps the most concise "why" of Sam's endearing work can be found in a thought that came to her in a dream, which she integrated near the bottom of a large and powerful painting that hangs in her studio: "My heart is the world."

Sam's breadth of work includes series of small paintings on boards (Littles) along with larger painting series, often in mixed media (such as "Life, Death, Dogs"). This year, Sam added "Messy Books" to her repertoire, reusing the paint splash papers lining her worktable. These color-splotched sheets are folded, cut, and elevated with stream of consciousness

tempera drawings and writing.

Despite her prolific output, Sam leaves a small footprint on the environment, sifting and removing polymers in acrylic paint water before bestowing it back to the earth. She plans to use up the last of her acrylic paints, then focus solely on a new art form.

That new form is mixed media embroidery using organic dyes and inks. Stitching is "meditative," she says. When we talked, she was connecting with her past by working on a tea towel collaboration with her departed mother by adding inventive handwork to the traditional girl design her mother embroidered when Sam was a child. Sam plans to dig deeper into the possibilities of cloth and thread, adding words and phrases as they come to her.

To learn more about Sam's work, visit her website at samyakamauchiart.com (be sure to access the links to her beautifully written blog!) and follow her on Instagram @samyakamauchi

This fall, Sam is making room for new art by hosting a backyard studio sale on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24 - 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 3004 NE 23rd Ave. Come be inspired.

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(Coyotes in Alameda, continued from Page 8)

I assume that the coyotes involved were “my” coyotes, the family I’ve been following for years. That lovely little red-orange pup on camera in 2017 was probably the alpha female of the pack that night. But was she leading a hunt, or chasing off rivals, or simply meeting up with some of her family members? Was the reporter an actual witness, or was their report a guess, like mine, based on the horrific sounds? Whatever it actually was, believing I had overheard the death agonies of a dog opened my eyes (and ears) to the trauma suffered by those who lose a city pet to a wild predator.

We know that coyotes are wild animals, the apex predator in most urban settings. They occupy and defend territories, and they hunt and kill small game: more crows than chickens, more rats than cats—but still. If it’s your cat or dog, my live-and-let-live reaction to a coyote pup’s chicken dinner doesn’t hold up. I better understand the fierce hostility to coyotes manifest in some Nextdoor comments, and a very small percentage of PUCP’s reports, mostly related to cat attacks.

There is no question that outdoor cats are at risk—just as those outdoor cats are a threat to birds. Predation by domestic cats is the number one direct, human-caused threat to birds in the United States and Canada. In the United States alone, outdoor cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds annually. And there is no question that keeping cats indoors protects both cats, and the birds they prey on.

Many of the decisions we make involve a calculation of risk. We’ve had a lot of practice with risk assessment over the course of the pandemic, calculating whom to believe, and how to protect ourselves and our families.

Cat and dog owners, like free-range chicken keepers, must calculate the risks in choosing to have outdoor pets. Yet, as with Covid, personal choices have wider social consequences. Coyotes provided with unsupervised pets and chickens as prey learn to see our yards as larders.

Habituating coyotes creates dangers for people, pets, and coyotes—although these dangers are almost never to people. Contrary to the unfounded fears we see in a few Coyote Project reports and Nextdoor comments, coyote attacks on people are exceedingly rare. Parents have much more to fear from dogs than coyotes - there were 568 dog bite-related fatalities between 2005-2015 in the U.S., versus only two fatal attacks by coyotes reported on humans in the U.S. and Canada, ever.

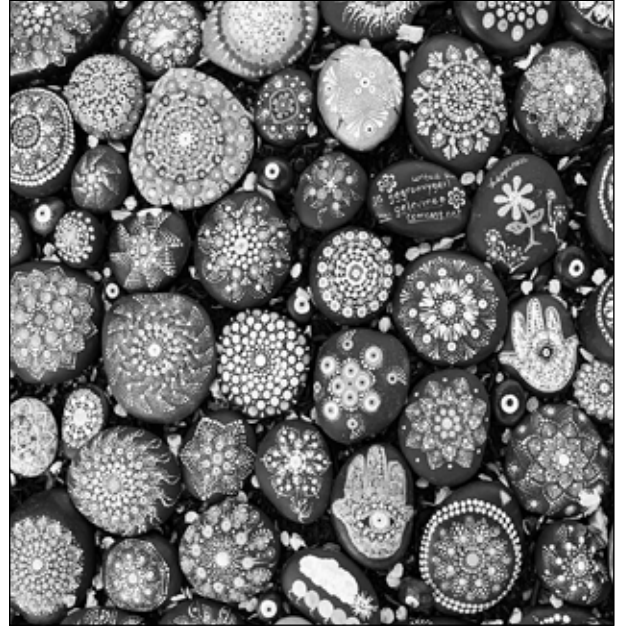
It’s heartbreaking to lose pets to coyotes, and challenging to keep some cats indoors. But getting rid of coyotes is not an option. They continue to expand their range and make themselves at home in our cities, and no control measure yet attempted in 150 years has stopped this expansion; in fact this resilient canid thrives in part because of these efforts. We must learn how to coexist with these animals, because whether you love them or loathe them, they are here, and everyone’s responsibility.

This reality is a hard for some to accept, but the fix is not difficult to understand: Wherever you are in Portland, assume there are coyotes, and assume that any unattended small animal is at risk. And keep coyotes wary of humans through hazing, reducing food sources, and encouraging neighbors to do their part as well.

Barbara Brower is a Professor Emerita of Geography at Portland State University, a 28-year resident of Alameda, and Project Advisor for the Portland Urban Coyote Project.

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