

Alameda PDX

Spring 2021

Volume 35 Number 1



VOLUNTEER DAVE ALBERTINE (L.) AND FACILITIES MANAGER JEFF WOODWARD HELP STAFF MEMBERS CARRY LUNCHES INTO THE HOPE CENTER.



MADDIE'S CART MEMBERS GREG AND COOPER SHORR CONTRIBUTE A BATCH OF THEIR HOMEMADE COOKIES.



JULIE MCFEE AND MIKE MONTGOMERY ASSEMBLE SANDWICHES FOR THE TUESDAY LUNCH FROM MADELEINE PARISH.

A Story of Hope and Neighborhood Generosity by Dan LaGrande

In this troubled time we are living in, are you – like many of our neighbors – longing for signs of hope, acts of kindness and generosity, and more examples of caring for those in need? If so, please read on.

Because this is a hopeful story of what some of our neighbors are doing for others in terrible need. And like many stories, it begins small — a few people, an idea, and a commitment to try.

“Several of us on the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty, who have focused on helping people transition to a better life, had heard about the newly opened Bybee Lakes Hope Center in North Portland and we went out for a tour,” recalls Dave Albertine, a member of the Madeleine Parish. “We saw that its program reflected our interest in helping people in need.”

The visiting group also learned the new center needed help in providing daily lunch for the residents during construction of a new commercial kitchen. As his friends know, Dave is a “take charge” guy, always willing to help others. He began asking other members of the Alliance for help, and was overwhelmed with their response.

Within a short time, this small group committed to a goal of providing lunch every day, seven days a week, for the Hope Center residents — a growing number of individuals and families without shelter, often hungry and with complex social and health issues.

“We soon had enough groups volunteering that we could provide lunch seven days a week,” Dave recounts with awe. “Everyone who made a commitment to provide lunches has stuck to it. They have not missed a day. Every single person has pulled their weight, and they are enthusiastic about it. And that includes our Maddie’s Cart group at the Madeleine, who provide lunch every Tuesday.”

To appreciate the commitment of delivering lunches every day to North Portland, it is important to understand the challenges. The Bybee Lakes Hope Center is in the never-used Wapato Corrections facility in an industrial area not far from Kelly Point, the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers.

After years of controversy, Multnomah County sold the long vacant building and property to Portland

businessman and philanthropist, Jordan Schnitzer, who saw the potential for using it to help Portland’s growing homeless population. He reached out to an organization he thought was best qualified to use the facility, leasing it for \$1 a year to Oregon-based nonprofit Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers. Helping Hands has been successfully providing transitional housing since 2002, and has grown to include eleven facilities in four counties in Oregon.

The homeless we see living on the streets, and others we may not see, all have diverse and multiple needs. Some are families who have lost their jobs and their homes, and are struggling to survive, living in their cars or on the streets. Others living on the streets have long-term disabling conditions, often including addictions or mental health issues. There are, of course, numerous public and private programs and services grappling with the daunting task of trying to help them.

One of the groups providing weekly lunches to the Hope Center is not from a church, but mostly friends from a quilting group. According to... *(continued on page 4)*



TARGET CONSTRUCTION ACCELERATED AHEAD OF OPENING.

Target Set to Open

A new Target store is scheduled to open in the Hollywood neighborhood on March 14.

“We’re excited to bring an easy, safe and convenient shopping experience to new guests in the community with this new Target store,” said a press spokesperson for the Minneapolis-based retailer.

The store is taking over the 42,000-square foot space at 4030 NE Halsey St. that was previously occupied by Orchard Supply Hardware, and prior to that, Hollywood Bowl. Planning for the store began in 2019, but construction was slowed by added Covid-19 requirements.

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Editor's Message

by Annette Bendinelli



People in Alameda know how to get things done.

When Dave Albertine heard that Bybee Lakes Hope Center needed help with meals during its kitchen remodel, he stepped up to help. Through his work with

the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty, he organized a group of volunteers from The Madeleine Church and other faith communities to provide daily lunches to the North Portland facility.

When her mother had trouble scheduling her Covid-19 vaccine, Madeleine Parish member Margaret Scherle created a website to help seniors navigate the complicated process.

When he learned about the negative impact of gas powered leaf blowers, Alameda neighbor Michael Hall joined Quiet Clean PDX to help convince State and City governments to transition to more environmentally friendly power. Recently the Alameda Neighborhood Association endorsed the group's ongoing efforts.

And when she learned that Monarch butterflies were endangered, neighbor Ida Galash took up the cause to educate local gardeners on ways to help sustain them.

During the pandemic, the efforts of these Alameda volunteers mean more than ever. They continue to help their neighbors – and their planet – in a world where previously challenging tasks have become even more difficult to accomplish. In this issue we salute them, and shine a spotlight on some of the work they do.

Our neighbors across NE 33rd, The Friends of Wilshire Park, also deserve a shout out for their tireless efforts to improve our mutual neighborhood green space. Their recent volunteer projects include expanded landscaping at the NatureSpace and park entrances, and new play structures in the children's playground area. You can learn more about FOWP's plans on Pages 3 and 12.

If you're an Alameda history buff, this issue's for you. In a salute to Alameda School's 100th anniversary, Doug Decker begins a two-part series on how our beloved elementary school came to be. Part 1 explains how "school" originated in our neighborhood, and Part 2 (in our Summer issue) will explore construction of the building we use today.

And have you ever wondered where your street name came from, or why we call NE Stuart Drive "Dead Man's Hill"? Doug can help you find out! Just send him your question in 75 words or less, and we'll publish his answers in our next issue. Look for details on Page 5.

Neighborhood historians will also enjoy reading about

the Oliver and Margaret Jeffery house, a noteworthy Alameda residence that appears on the National Register of Historic Places. And writer Patty Farrell explains why Grant High School's renovation recently received the prestigious DeMuro Award, the state's highest honor for the preservation, reuse and revitalization of architectural and cultural sites.

As Gail Jeidy notes in her column on Page 11, our own personal history with a place can evoke strong feelings. In a story many of us can relate to, Gail shares her memories of Lloyd Center and mourns the decline of the nearly vacant shopping mall.

But while it's always important to look back, as spring arrives, there's also a lot to look forward to. Vaccines are becoming more readily available, and the weather's starting to warm up. Hopefully we'll regain some sense of normalcy as we leave our long, pandemic winter behind.

I don't know about you, but I'm definitely ready to get out and enjoy the sunshine!

— Annette

ANA Endorses Quiet Clean PDX

The Alameda Neighborhood Association recently gave its endorsement to Quiet Clean PDX, a local volunteer organization working to eliminate the use of gas powered leaf blowers.

The Statement of Endorsement reads as follows:

"The Alameda Neighborhood Association is happy to endorse the efforts of Quiet Clean PDX and the City of Portland to greatly reduce, or eliminate, the use of gas powered leaf blowers.

Our support extends beyond our neighborhood, with the goal of continued improvement for all of Portland - making our neighborhoods safer, cleaner and more accessible for everyone.

We also recognize the burden that can be placed on small businesses, and we support incentives and programs that encourage this transition. The Alameda Neighborhood Association is proud to stand with those that are putting forward effort to improve livability.

We thank Quiet Clean PDX for its commitment to this important issue!"

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.

To date, Quiet Clean PDX has garnered support from over 35 local businesses, neighborhood associations, and national organizations.

In 2019, Quiet Clean PDX worked with the City of Portland to pass Resolution #37464, which directs all City bureaus to transition from gas powered to electric and/or battery-operated leaf blowers, with different schedules based on specific criteria. The City is now coordinating with Multnomah County to establish a working group to investigate eliminating gas leaf blowers from commercial or residential use throughout Portland and Multnomah County.

As a result of the group's lobbying efforts with the state legislature, a bill has been introduced this year that would prohibit gas leaf blowers within Portland's Urban Growth Boundary. Sponsored by Rep. Barbara Smith Warner, as of press time HB 3023 was currently awaiting a public hearing.

In another state-level effort, Quiet Clean PDX successfully petitioned Oregon's Department of Administrative Services to adopt new policies and procurement rules that will eliminate gas leaf blower use on state grounds. A phase-in period over a few years would allow for a smooth transition to battery powered and manual equipment.

Speaking on behalf of Quiet Clean PDX, member Michael Hall said, "We thank the Alameda Neighborhood Association for its endorsement of our goal to eliminate gas leaf blowers."

He added, "The ANA's support will help us do away with these terrible and unnecessary machines. They not only disturb the peace and quiet of Portland neighborhoods, but cause significant harm to the health of workers, residents, passers-by, and the environment."

For more information on Quiet Clean PDX, visit www.quietcleanpdx.org.

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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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Vivian McNerny's Whole Hole Story by Blythe Knott

There are holes in your pocket that things fall out of. And there are holes in your pocket that you yourself can fall into, on the way to a whole slew of imaginary adventures. The latter kind of hole is what our heroine, an adorable girl named Zia, encounters in a charming new book by longtime neighborhood resident and author Vivian McNerny.



AUTHOR VIVIAN MCINERNY

The Whole Hole Story is intended for ages 3-7 and is Vivian's first children's book. It's about a spunky girl who discovers a hole in her pocket and imagines all its possibilities - from a fishing and a swimming hole, to an elephant trap, to a tunnel to the other side of the world. The book is very cleverly written, and Vivian explains, "It's an imaginative romp with silly wordplay. I hope it encourages creative thinking and amuses grownup readers, too."

Early in the book, Zia wonders if she should be worried about falling through the hole in her pocket, but she reminds herself that it's an imaginary hole, so it could only be as scary as she allowed.

"I hate scary stories," Zia says. This is something she and I have in common. As a reader, it's fun to have a character in a book who thinks just like me.

This is Vivian's first children's book. A former staff

writer at *The Oregonian*, she covered fashion for the daily newspaper for two-plus decades.

"It was a great beat because I got to know the people working in fashion in our community, like those behind the scenes at department stores and boutiques, models and agents, hair stylists, or the independent designer with a quirky outlook on life. And I loved going out with photographers to find interestingly dressed people to talk about what they were wearing and why."

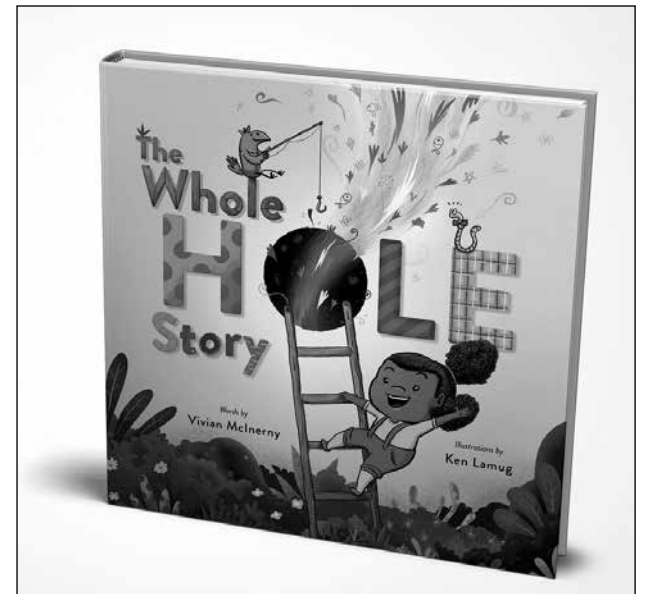
She adds, "(Photographer) Ross Hamilton, who also lives in the neighborhood, was especially creative at it. We had fun working together. I also went to New York Fashion Week twice a year, which was its own kind of crazy. I interviewed top people in the industry and met and quoted a ton of celebrities including Winona Ryder, Deborah Harry, and a young Beyonce."

Vivian still writes the occasional journalism piece. But in recent years, she has focused her efforts on personal essays and fiction for literary journals.

She notes, "I like the challenge of writing across different genres and for a wide range of ages. In a picture book, every word needs to count and you want to entertain children without driving the adult readers bananas. I've been thrilled to see the response of kids during virtual classroom visits."

Vivian's husband, Jonathan Nicholas, was also a longtime columnist at *The Oregonian*. They met in Rishikesh, India, and lived in Nepal and England for three years before moving to the Alameda neighborhood in 1983. Their two daughters attended Alameda, Beaumont and Grant.

The Whole Hole Story is beautifully illustrated by Ken Lamug. The richness and creativity of the designs are a wonderful counterpart to the entertaining story. It was recently an Amazon Editor's Pick and has received excellent reviews from Publishers Weekly, Kirkus, and a starred review from the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books.



THE WHOLE HOLE STORY COMBINES BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATIONS WITH CLEVER TEXT.

The book is available locally at A Children's Place, Broadway Books, Multnomah County Library and Powell's Books.

Vivian is now in the process of writing a novel, so we can look forward to more stories in the future from our author neighbor. In the meantime, keep an eye on those holes in your pockets. If you have an imagination anything like Zia's, you never know where they might take you.

Friends of Wilshire Park Wants YOU!

by R. Peter Mogielnicki

As the weather improves and the pandemic gradually comes under control, Wilshire Park is once again proving its incredible value as a neighborhood resource. The new play structures serve not only as one of the few toddler-focused park features in Northeast Portland, but also provide a place where parents overseeing their offspring can safely socialize and make new friends.

In the park's nearby NatureSpace, older children can be seen jumping from boulder to boulder, scaling the huge upright stump, and balancing on the supine logs. When the kids relinquish control, adults use those same structures as seating while they enjoy that fragment of a natural, native woodland habitat.

Runners and walkers keep the foot paths in near-constant use, and the park's large field hosts kite fliers, glider tossers, frisbee games, Tai Chi and yoga groups, as well as snoozers, loungers and other users of the open space. At the other end of the park, dogs cavort in the partially fenced off-leash area while stately mature trees oversee the whole happy scene.

Many of the park's improvements in recent years have come about as a result of the activity of a small group of local residents. Even during the pandemic, Friends of Wilshire Park has met regularly by Zoom. As the need for social distancing diminishes, meetings will return to one-hour, in-person gatherings beginning at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, and will be located in the basement of the Bethany Lutheran Church, at the corner of NE Skidmore and 37th Avenue.



THE PARK'S NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT HAS SEEN LOTS OF USE.



A LARGE, UPRIGHT STUMP PROVIDES A PLACE TO CLIMB.

Between meetings, members communicate with Portland Parks and Recreation personnel, organize volunteer work groups, set priorities and research relevant issues. New members are always welcome. If you plan to attend it is a good idea to notify Peter Mogielnicki at Mogsaway@Yahoo.com in case of a venue change.

Presently, the group is developing a priority list to focus energy on its next project(s). Items under consideration are a splashpad for the old wading pool, dog area upgrades like a water source and more fencing, split rail fencing to protect the new plantings along NE Skidmore, and natural seating like logs and boulders around the toddler play area.

Just as this article was going to press, work began on expanding the landscaping on either side of the north and south entrances of the park. The first phase is to plant 250

ferns, perennials and low shrubs native to the Pacific Northwest on either side of the main north and south entrances. This will add interest to underused areas, support pollinators, and provide habitat and food sources for birds. Neighborhood volunteers are already signed up to do the planting at the end of February. Phase Two - extending the landscaping along the fence on the north edge of the park - will take place if and when additional funding can be secured.

Given that the recent PP&R bond was meant to stabilize fixed costs - and many other areas of the city are park-poor compared to ours - any further improvements to Wilshire Park will only come with neighborhood advocacy and involvement. Participation in Friends of Wilshire Park monthly meetings is enthusiastically welcomed. For more info visit friendsofwilshirepark.org.

(Hope and Generosity, continued from Page 1)

the organizer, Janice Yaden, “We do this because we believe we should all be doing something to make the world better. And my helpers thank me for letting them make lunches every Thursday, and allowing them to do something positive.”

Before retiring, Janice worked as a project manager for Mercy Corps, serving in 13 different countries over the years.

“I think the Hope Center approach is a good one, a needed one,” she observes. “Of course, other approaches are needed too, as the reasons for homelessness and poverty are also diverse.”

One of the unique features of the Bybee Lakes Hope Center is that it only accepts referrals from about three dozen registered community partners. They include local hospitals, police and fire departments, non-profit community helping organizations, and social service and local government agencies. Those referred are homeless men, women, and children who are ready to make sustainable changes to improve their lives. Participants must be ready to be clean and sober, and must not be registered sex offenders of any class, since 10% of those served at the Hope Center are children.

The volunteers who are providing lunches seven days a week understand the Hope Center’s goals and approach. “This is a growing program, and the facility is being remodeled to meet the needs of the residents who have committed to improving their lives with a goal of self-sufficiency,” explains Gail Black from Rose City Park Presbyterian Church. “It is part of our faith community and beliefs that we are called on to help those in need, and providing lunches for the residents every Wednesday is one way we act on our beliefs.”

Les Wardenaar from Fremont Methodist Church says his congregation is smaller, but no less dedicated, with a half-dozen members committed to providing lunches every Monday.

“The Hope Center’s focus is on helping individuals deal with addictions and other issues, which is obviously very difficult,” he acknowledges. “So if we make and deliver 25 to 30 lunches each week, and it helps people who are struggling and trying to change, we want to support them.”

That support has meant a great deal to the residents at the Hope Center, as facilities manager Jeff Woodward acknowledged in an email to lunch brigade members.

“I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the efforts of the lunch brigade coalition,” he wrote. “There is much more than lunches being delivered. The meals bring hope and comfort to those we serve. Our participants look forward to the deliveries every day, as they provide a measure of normalcy and relief.”

Jeff went on to say that newly installed commercial laundry machines are now operational, and a large play structure for children was donated and will soon be set up. Also, a veteran’s group has donated raised garden beds to become part of a therapeutic outdoor walking path with gazebos, water features and areas for contemplation and reflection.

For most Christian faiths, Sunday is a church day. So members of Congregation Havurah Shalom, another member of the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty, generously stepped forward for the Sunday lunch assignment.

“We have 20 families - some with teenagers - taking turns, usually three or four each Sunday making and delivering the lunches,” explains Gloria Halper. “Tikkum Olam, or

“care of the world,” is an important tenet of our Jewish life, and that’s why we have such strong support for the lunch program, of helping those who really need it. We have worked to help the homeless for years, and this is another way to be of service.”

That sentiment was echoed by Lisa Hatten, coordinator of the lunch group at St. Andrew Catholic Parish. “Poverty and housing needs are big, ongoing issues, and we can’t solve them easily,” she says. “However, we are happy to collaborate with others, so that together we can meet a specific need at the Hope Center.”

Peter and Ann Anderson are members of the St. Andrew lunch crew. “We are very impressed with the philosophy and management of the Hope Center,” Peter says. “And it is so gratifying to know how much the residents there enjoy our homemade sandwiches that we deliver every Friday.”

In Southeast Portland, several members of Emanuel Lutheran have joined with Kenilworth Presbyterian, whose church has been closed since the pandemic started, to help make and deliver lunches every Saturday.

“We appreciate the extra help from our Lutheran friends,” Nancy Young says, “and now they provide lunches for half the Saturdays, and we do it for the other half. It means a lot to all of us to be involved in the lunch program, because it is so important that we all help the homeless in our community.”

“Speaking for the residents and staff at the Hope Center,” Jeff Woodward wrote to the lunch brigade, “we are very humbled by the generosity of everyone bringing us lunches every day.” And he concluded, “Please relate our appreciation to all for the flexibility and steadfast and heartfelt service. It means more than you can possibly know.”



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How School Began in Alameda by Doug Decker

This article is the first of two parts examining the history of our century-old school. It's been 100 years since the construction of Alameda Elementary, and 107 years since school facilities were first set up here in the neighborhood. To observe this century mark, we'll begin with the origins of school in Alameda, followed by the development of the building we know today.

During this pandemic year, we've had the opportunity to reflect on much about our community and the wonders of what may formerly have been taken for granted as "normal" neighborhood life. Take for instance the small miracle that is Alameda School. Passing by these days, you can almost feel the shuttered building—and that now-quiet stretch of NE Fremont—just waiting for the return of children, families, teachers.

In 1914—five years after the creation of this neighborhood—Alameda Park, as it was once called, was a blank slate, with streets and curbs established but less than 80 homes built. The children living here in these scattered houses had a long walk to the nearest school. Construction of Kennedy School to the north on NE 33rd was underway, which may well have irritated Alameda parents, who felt there should be a school in this neighborhood too.

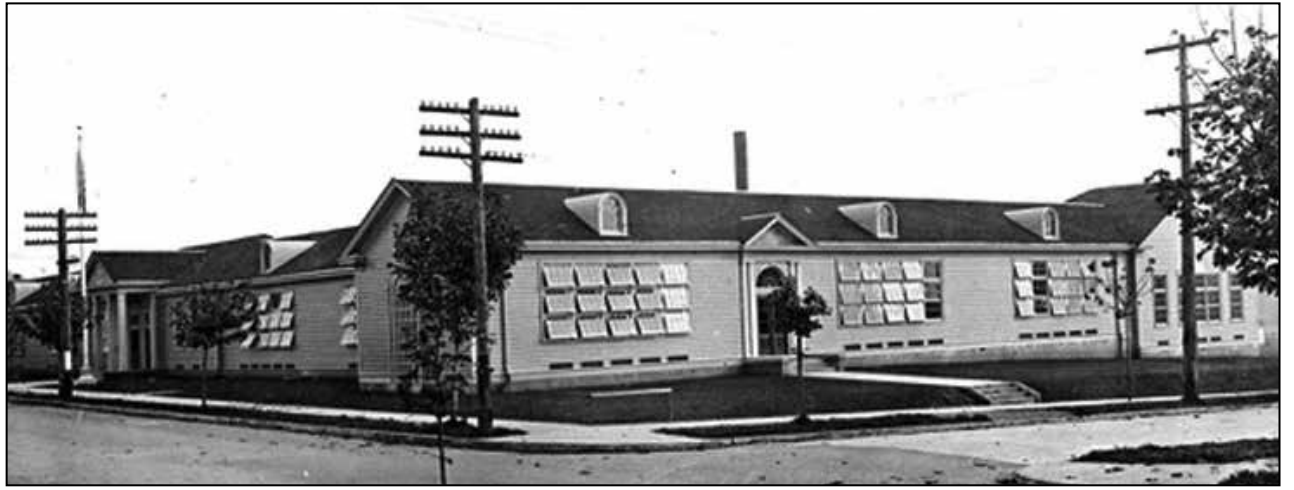
On September 3, 1914, a delegation of neighborhood parents attended a Portland School Board meeting to describe how local kids had to walk more than a mile one way to the old Vernon School, which was itself already overcrowded. They requested the board authorize a temporary school for Alameda Park, and even offered up a lease for the ground to house it.

With seemingly light speed, the board responded positively. They agreed just a few weeks later to provide staff and locate several portable buildings on multiple lots at the northeast corner of 25th and Fremont, as long as the property owners there were willing to donate the land, which they were.

An agreement was made for a 200' x 500' parcel, and multiple portable buildings were set up. By Thanksgiving 1914, students were in attendance at this first and temporary Alameda School. Of note, a similar set of portable buildings was established at the corner of NE 41st and Fremont to establish a temporary Beaumont neighborhood school. The Beaumont School we know today was built in 1926.

Over the next several years, the Alameda portables multiplied into a compound of temporary buildings connected by muddy paths. In the fall of 1920, Alameda parents (there were more of them by now, as the neighborhood had experienced rapid growth and construction) held a rally of sorts, signed a petition and expressed their readiness to levy a tax against themselves to build a permanent building.

Despite these pleas from the community, when school



ALAMEDA SCHOOL AS IT LOOKED IN 1923.

started in 1920 the Alameda portables were overflowing with students. Something had to be done. By mid-October 1920, School Board Director W.F. Woodward had been to see the conditions in the Alameda portables and seemed genuinely moved to take action, but didn't have any funding to address the needs — particularly since Portland voters had recently turned down a school bond levy.

A highly motivated delegation of 75 Alameda parents—led in part by mothers from the neighborhood—packed a School Board meeting to make their case and to bring a solution: Create a community groundswell for another school levy.

Which is exactly what they did. A bond issue was passed and planning for a more permanent school building began. One year later, on October 27, 1921, the School Board selected a contractor to build the new Alameda School and construction soon followed, leading to the school we know today.

Next: Construction and the Early Years of Alameda School.

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 the early Alameda School and see photos of the portables, visit Doug's website www.alamedahistory.org and search "Alameda School."

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.

Here's your chance to learn more about Alameda's fascinating past!

PORTABLE BUILDINGS HIT

ALAMEDA DELEGATION CALLS ON SCHOOL BOARD.

Petition for Millage Tax to Finance Improvements Is Presented by Property Owners.

"Cardboard buildings," as the portable school units erected in the past two years were dubbed, Monday night were the subject of an organized attack by about 75 residents of Alameda Park. The upshot of a meeting held in the portable structure provided that community was the adoption of a resolution petitioning the school board to place on the ballot at next June's election provision for a millage tax with which to finance an extensive building programme. This matter, it was also voted, will be submitted to the Portland parent-teacher council at its next session.

Orators last night were divided as to whether to support another attempt to vote bonds for new buildings or ask for a 2-mill levy, which would provide \$600,000 the first year. Those attending, however, held to one opinion, that Alameda should have a new school next year and they would leave no stone unturned to bring it about, even though consent of all the voters had to be obtained first.

A. C. Newill, member of the board of directors for this district, was present and answered questions fired at him by the delegation.

Speakers were Dr. C. J. Smith, F. E. Taylor, W. F. Woodward and Mrs. Ed Palmer, president of the Portland parent-teacher council. She pledged support of 32 school circles for a tax levy designed to provide substantial buildings.

The meeting went on record as favoring having a building plan mapped out before election, in order that the districts would understand exactly what they are voting for.

FROM THE OREGONIAN, OCTOBER 29, 1919.



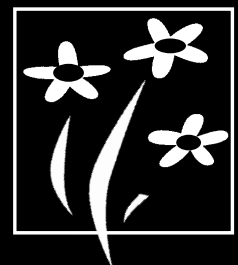
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Grant High Renovation Receives Top Award for Historic Preservation *by Patty Farrell*

Grant High School's renovation was one of 12 projects chosen by Restore Oregon to receive the 2020 DeMuro Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation. The award is the state's highest honor for the preservation, reuse and revitalization of architectural and cultural sites.

Built in 1923, the iconic Grant High building suffered from 50 years of deferred maintenance. Beyond the school's "tired" feel, buildings were seismically deficient, had accessibility barriers, and contained a variety of hazardous materials. Spaces were not conducive to 21st century teaching and learning, and a series of additions had created a maze of indoor passages.

The \$158 million modernization, made possible by a bond measure passed by voters in 2012, included restoring the historic architecture with new brick and upgraded windows, removing old additions, designing a compatible three-story addition, and reconfiguring and resurfacing interior spaces to accommodate modern educational needs. The renovation began in 2017 and was completed in 2019.

"The historic buildings were beloved by the community, many of whom had roamed the school's hallways over the generations," said Peggy Moretti, executive director of Restore Oregon. "The brick and terra cotta facades presented a formal face to the neighborhood that people took pride in."

In planning the renovation, the design team conducted 12 meetings with the Grant Design Advisory Group, six community meetings and workshops, and more than 100 meetings with Portland Public Schools and Grant High School administration and staff.

"The result is masterful," Moretti said. "The most exceptional aspect of this project was the involvement of the school community and the resulting focus on addressing social equity issues with the new school's design."

For example, the cafeteria, located in a basement with little daylight, was used primarily by students on free and

reduced lunch, while other students ate sack lunches from home in the hallways and grounds, or went off campus for lunch.

"This reinforced economic and racial divides," Moretti said. "The new cafeteria was placed on two stories opening up to an active, social courtyard to provide a diversity of spaces for students to eat and socialize."

Similarly, many remedial and special education classes were taught in basement classrooms that lacked light and were isolated from the rest of the school. Those have been relocated to bright, modern spaces.

Transgender students did not feel comfortable choosing between girls and boys restrooms. To address this, the renovation provided gender-neutral restrooms for all students with private toilet stalls surrounded by full walls and doors, and shared sinks in spaces that open to adjacent corridors.

To preserve the school's architectural design, the design and construction teams used a number of preservation techniques, including restoration of brick, terra cotta, concrete, plaster, finish carpentry and wood cabinets, and metal and wood windows, along with hazardous material removal.

Moretti also pointed to several environmental considerations incorporated in the remodel.

"First and foremost, by renovating and reusing salvaged materials rather than building new, the project significantly reduced its embodied carbon footprint," she said.

The school's roof also holds one of the largest photovoltaic solar panel installations in the state, with translucent solar panels covering the school's new bike shelter. According to Moretti, the project is on track for LEED Gold Certification.

Other elements of the former building were retained and upgraded. The old gym now houses the fine and visual arts



GENDER-NEUTRAL RESTROOMS ARE CLEAN, SAFE SPACES FOR ALL STUDENTS.

program, with an open two-story atrium. The gallery floor was refinished with the salvaged gym flooring.

In addition, Moretti said "the Grant community felt the beloved auditorium should be preserved and upgraded," noting that the auditorium and choir room were "fondly remembered as the site used to film the movie 'Mr. Holland's Opus.'" The renovation came in at a lower cost than building a new, smaller theater, she added.

The renovation was designed by Mahlum Architects, and the project was a joint venture with Andersen Construction and Colas Construction.

All photos by Benjamin Benschneider, courtesy of Restore Oregon.



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Vaccine Outreach Program at Madeleine

by Caryn Fielder

Alameda resident Margaret Scharle was amazed at how difficult it was to navigate Oregon's COVID-19 vaccine information when she tried to help her 90-year-old mother figure out how to make a February appointment.

"It really is a convoluted process," says Scharle.

Scharle has been a resident of Alameda for 16 years and is a Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at Reed College. Luckily for the seniors in our community, she is currently on a sabbatical which has allowed her the time to start the Vaccine Outreach Program in association with her church, The Madeleine Parish.

"The great thing about being part of The Madeleine is that if you have an idea, you can take it and run with it," says Scharle. "The dedicated staff are willing to partner with you to make a difference in the community."

Scharle has obviously exposed a large community need, because the Outreach Program's web page received more than 1,100 hits in its first few days after posting. As of mid-February, the Program had already helped more than 100 individuals navigate the vaccination registration process.

In addition, the Oregon Health Authority has distributed the website link and toolkit to 1,800 faith communities across the state.

One grateful senior said, "Your updated web pages are a wonderful gift. It makes this daunting time just a little easier knowing there is someone out there to guide one through this process. My technology skills are minimal!"

With limited volunteers, the new vaccine outreach ministry primarily offers assistance to Madeleine parishioners ages 65 and older. Scharle and her team of volunteers are also eager to assist other churches, organizations and neighborhood block groups interested in starting their own program. They have created an Outreach Program Toolkit, downloadable from the Madeleine Vaccine Outreach website to assist others who would like to create their own vaccine outreach program.

The website (www.themadeleine.edu/vaccine) also includes information about current eligibility, vaccine sites, links and information such as useful articles.

"My hope is that other organizations will use the toolkit and link to our page to help the seniors in their community," says Scharle.

She would be the first to point out that this is not a solo endeavor. A program like this only works because of the willingness of others to help seniors having difficulties navigating the frustrating vaccine process.



CATHERINE SCHARLE (LEFT) AND HER DAUGHTER, MARGARET SCHARLE (RIGHT), WHO STARTED THE VACCINE OUTREACH PROGRAM.

"I'm so grateful to Margaret for putting into practice the core of our Christian faith: to serve and not to be served, especially to those in need," said Father Michael Biewend, pastor of The Madeleine Parish.

To access the information available on The Madeleine Vaccine Outreach Program website, visit www.themadeleine.edu/vaccine. The toolkit, which is freely available for any organization to use, is frequently updated with new information and lessons learned.

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Letters to the Editor

Metropolitan Community Church's Gay Rights History

I enjoyed Doug Decker's article on remodeling at the church on NE 24th and Broadway (Winter 2020). I pass this church often and was curious about what had been happening. I am certain it was hard for the congregation to leave, and I wish them well as they continue their journey to a new location, but I am also glad this old building will remain.

In these unquiet times, Alameda neighbors may find one other element of this church's history interesting: its place in the history of gay rights in Portland.

I have no direct memories of Metropolitan Community Church when I was a younger man living in downtown Portland in the early nineties. My attention at that time revolved around my classes at Portland State University and what nightclub I would go to when the sun set (probably not in that order, to be completely honest). But in those times, with the Oregon Citizens Alliance sponsoring ballot measures attempting to defeat what they called the "homosexual political agenda," the issue of gay rights was as prevalent in Portland as other issues are today.

In that environment, where my friends and I wore buttons announcing ourselves as "straight but not narrow," I remember the yellow ribbon of support around the entire block of First Unitarian Church in my downtown neighborhood, and Metropolitan

Community Church as the "gay church" across the river.

Ballot Measure 9, an attempt to ink homophobia into the Oregon Constitution, was defeated in 1992. The "No on 9" signs came down off the windows in my apartment building. The buttons came off jackets and went into desk drawers along with concert ticket stubs and phone numbers written on nightclub cocktail napkins. But others would continue the hard work.

I recently found a book by David Grant Kohl titled "A Curious and Peculiar People: A History of the GLBTQ Community and the Metropolitan Community Church." I have not read it, but I believe I will add it to my ever-growing reading list.

As Alameda residents look forward to a craft beer in this building, they might also take pride knowing leaders working for social justice were close to the neighborhood the whole time.

Scott Gunderson – Portland, OR

Stop White Supremacy

On January 6, we and the world saw white men storm the Capitol in Washington D.C. with weapons. If these had been BIPOC folk, they would have been killed, maimed, or seriously injured on the spot.

It was a blatant display of white supremacy, arrogance and white fear on full display. White people out of

control are dangerous, because they know there are no consequences for them because they are white. Period.

White supremacy must be dismantled and stopped. White supremacy is killing us. It is killing our nation and democracy. I do not have any tips or clues on how to dismantle white supremacy. Only white people can accomplish this. What I do know is that it takes a change in perception and attitude, plus a healthy dose of commitment that can be modeled to others. Maybe resisting fear is a starting point.

Karen Wells – Portland, OR

Alameda "Hate Free Zone" Statement

You've done a great job on the ANA newsletter. The winter edition is particularly interesting. Thank you for your good work, I know it's not easy.

I and several women crafted the ANA's "hate free zone" statement (Statement of Inclusion) in 1995, which you've noted.

Gene Avery – Portland, OR

Editor's Note: Gene Avery is a longtime Alameda resident and former ANA Board Chair and Treasurer. He was instrumental in drafting the ANA Statement of Inclusion, which appears on Page 2 in every issue of AlamedaPDX. Look for a story in our Summer issue on how the Statement came about.

THE FOLLOWING IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Are You Worried Your Back Pain May Cause You To Miss Out On Activities With Family And Friends?

By Portland Back Pain Expert, Dr. Carl Baird DC, MS



Have you, or someone you know, been dealing with back pain that keeps you from being as active as you'd like? Do you worry that if your back pain gets any worse, you'll have to give up your favorite activities? Or

worse, maybe you're already being forced to miss out on outings, trips, and adventures with your friends and family because of your pain.

My name is Dr. Carl Baird and every day I work with adults aged 40-70 who have been dealing with back pain for months to years and are concerned it may get to the point where they're forced to miss out on all the activities that they really enjoy.

They're frustrated and confused because the usual therapies they use to take care of their back pain (massage, chiropractic, physical therapy, etc.) are no longer working and the pain is returning weeks (if not days later). They know pain pills, injections, and surgery only provide temporary relief and are looking for LONG TERM SOLUTIONS.

Having helped 100's of people overcome back pain and keep active, strong, and doing what they love - I can confidently say that solution to your back pain does exist.

But the answers won't be found in more pain pills, injections, or endless chiropractic and physical therapy appointments. To overcome back pain, we have to change our entire approach.

In fact, I wrote a book on this very topic titled, "Life Without Limitations: A Complete Guide to Overcoming Pain, Moving with Confidence and Maintaining Your Active Lifestyle - Regardless of Age" just last year.

The book offers a new approach to getting back to your favorite activities GUARANTEED to get you back to our favorite activities - even when nothing else has worked. It's essential reading for anyone aged 40-70 worried about having to give up some of the activities they love.

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The Once and Future House by David Spencer

When he was four years old, Ted Seitz's family moved to a house at Northeast 31st Avenue and Mason Street. A few years later when he was old enough to walk to school, Ted and his gang of buddies often passed a once-prominent mansion that had seen better days.

"Someday," Ted said to himself, "I'd like to buy that house and fix it up."

Decline and Fall

The Oliver K. and Margaret Jeffery House at 3033 NE Bryce Street is Portland's largest Dutch Colonial Revival building. Designed by prominent architect George Asa Eastman, it was built in 1915 for Oliver K. Jeffery, the president of Oregon Home Builders, and his wife Margaret. The house was meant to serve as a showpiece to impress would-be investors and potential home buyers, and was located where riders of the Broadway streetcar line could see it.

Unfortunately, Jeffery's company failed over time, and the grand home was nearly lost. By the 1970s when Ted was walking by, it had become a halfway house for boys who were most likely to end up in the juvenile justice system. He'd seen the residents leaning out of the windows and shouting. The well-meaning owner sold shares in the home at her church to provide shelter for the boys.

The next owner rented out multiple rooms. Ted remembers seeing TV cables running across the roof for all the different subscribers. Then, the house was left unoccupied, but a family lived in the guest quarters above the garage for several years.



AERIAL VIEW SHOWS THE UNIQUE TRIANGULAR LOT WITH REFLECTING POOL AND PERGOLA.

Redemption

In 1998, Ted's wife, Julie, noticed that the Jeffery house was for sale and told Ted about it. Realizing this was his chance to fulfill his childhood dream, they bought it and set to work restoring the look and feel that the original owner intended.

Renovation started with systems. The house had specially milled 10-inch beveled siding that needed to be replaced where it had been damaged by weather and neglect. The Seitzes removed excess layers of roofing and put on asphalt shingle roofing with attached copper downspouts and gutters.

"Now it's preserved well, so it'll last another 100 years," Ted says.

Inside, previous temporary residents hadn't ruined the 14-inch plaster of paris and wood moldings, but bannister rails were missing, window sills were rotted, and years of vacancy had taken their toll. Ted and Julie rehung windows, replaced doors, and refinished hardwood floors, bringing back their original beauty.

The breakfast nook was located in a one-story polygonal bay projecting from the rectangular floor plan, at a right angle from the front facade. They added a second octagon of a similar size to the east side of the kitchen to create an adjacent family room/den.



THE OLIVER AND MARGARET JEFFERY HOUSE AT 3033 NE BRYCE STREET.

"We liked the balance from the exterior view. We also spent 90 percent of our time in this room, so functionally it was a great add," Ted says.

The house sits on one of Alameda's unique triangular lots, and its expansive grounds contain a reflecting pool and pergola. Over the years, the pergola had rotted out, and the fountain leaked. To guide their restoration, Ted and Julie got photos from the Oregon Historical Society and other sources. They rebuilt the pergola so it resists rot, and made the fountain functional again.

Registration

Ted and Julie listed the house on the National Register of Historic Places September 21, 2005. They were happy to have it protected against subdivision or alterations that would negatively impact its character. Additionally, the nomination process required an investigation into the home's history, which they found interesting and important for capturing stories from the past. After months of work, their application was accepted.

Passing along the history

The Seitzes raised their children in the house, and all three attended school at Alameda and Beaumont. Eventually, Ted and Julie became empty nesters and decided to downsize, but they wanted to stay in the neighborhood. When they put the house up for sale, they received an offer from a prospective buyer named Mason Evans. He made it clear that he cared about preserving the Jeffery house's historic details, and he respected the work they'd put into it.

He owned a home nearby that was just the right size for Ted and Julie, and in the end they decided to swap houses.

Mason and Mary Evans have continued making National Register-approved updates on the historic home. They turned the galley kitchen into a larger one with an island, updated the bathrooms, and added air conditioning.

Though most people first notice the unique historic details such as the dramatic ceiling, Mason says the functional aspects are his favorites.

"I like having a large kitchen island and the convenience of a second-floor laundry room close to the bedrooms."

With five family members and a dog, the Evans household is active, with people coming and going constantly. Mason says he knows they'll be there a long time, and wanted a setup that would work well for a busy family.

"We really treasure the outdoor space—especially playing soccer in the side yard, basketball in the driveway, and ping pong in the garage," he says.

Mason adds, "Without Ted Seitz's vision and effort, it's likely that the home would have been demolished and the lot subdivided." Instead, the 100-year-old Jeffery house has kept its character, but has become thoroughly modern.

Note: In addition to the Jeffery house, there are many other examples of Dutch Colonial Revival homes located in the Alameda neighborhood. Ten such properties are located within a twelve-block radius of the Jeffery house. This concentration attests to the popularity of the style at the time of the initial development of the Alameda Park subdivision. Front facades are important elements of the Dutch Colonial Revival style that are visible from the street, and all ten houses are two-story, have gambrel roofs, and are sited on fully developed blocks.

Additional Resources:

- To learn more about Alameda's historic homes, visit Doug Decker's alamedahistory.org and the Oregon Historical Society's oregonencyclopedia.org.
- Doug Decker profiled the Jeffery house in 2018: <https://alamedahistory.org/tag/oliver-k-jeffery/>
- You can find the Jeffery House listing on the National Register at <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/05001059>
- Right Angle Construction has an article about the Evans' renovation with excellent pictures of the interior at <https://www.rightangleco.com/historic-portland-home-now/>

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Tree-of-Heaven Not So Heavenly by Barbara Strunk

For years I have been pulling volunteer tree seedlings from my garden. I thought they were walnuts, planted by squirrels preparing for winter. Some of the seedlings got away from me and became saplings with huge, destructive root systems. These saplings have established at the bases of desirable plants such as my rhododendrons and raspberries, and along our house foundation.

They are *Ailanthus altissima*, or “Tree-of-Heaven”, a truly noxious invasive species imported from China hundreds of years ago. I found the seed-producing trees less than a block away from our house, and while walking the neighborhood, I have seen many of them in parking strips. Tree-of-Heaven can be confused with staghorn sumac, black walnut, and hickory.

One of the many problems with Tree-of-Heaven is that it’s a prolific seed producer. The winged seeds travel widely and germinate easily, and the plant has heavy, aggressive root systems that have been known to crack foundations and overtake desired plantings. It easily adapts to all kinds of environments, gardens, forests and roadsides.

The *Ailanthus altissima* also produces destructive allelopathic chemicals in its leaves, roots, and bark that can

limit or prevent the establishment of other plants. For some people, contact with the pollen or sap can cause allergies and dermatitis.

What can we do to control this tree? First of all, don’t plant it. Be vigilant. Become familiar with what the seedlings look like and pull them immediately. The root system, even on a seedling, is impressive. Manual removal can work on small seedlings and saplings, but all roots and root fragments must be removed. New growth sprouts from even small root fragments, and can appear 50 feet from a mature *Ailanthus altissima* tree.

Since I haven’t been certain that I can get all the sapling roots out, I have very reluctantly resorted to systemic herbicidal control in addition to digging. From July to the onset of fall color - when the plant is drawing fluids and carbohydrates back to its roots prior to going dormant - I paint the herbicide onto the cut stem of the Tree-Of-Heaven. These herbicides are the type used to control rampant blackberries. I have also painted them on the new growth of the saplings, but that seems to damage only the leaves. The roots must be damaged to control the tree. I would never apply these herbicides as a spray, since many of the surrounding shrubby plants would be destroyed.



TREE-OF-HEAVEN

Tree-of-Heaven is pretty, but it is serious destruction hiding in an attractive form.

Additional info can be found at:

<https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven> (This site has very useful identification pictures.)

This article was previously published in the Sept/Oct 2019 issue of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Newsletter.

Gardeners, Act Now to Help Save the Monarch Butterflies by Dan LaGrande

As if living through this pandemic is not bad enough, the lovely Monarch butterflies that brighten our summer days are at risk of extinction.

But one of our neighbors vows it won’t happen, if home gardeners come to the rescue.

Artist and avid gardener Ida Galash is offering free milkweed seeds to home gardeners, and she is urging them to plant them soon— even in a flowerpot if garden space is limited.

Anyone can pick up the free seeds in a box in the Monarch Waystation that Ida created along NE 24th, between Garden Fever and The Madeleine School. She has also placed blue stones that she painted with a butterfly image and seed packets attached at various spots around the neighborhood.

“I urge everyone to take the free milkweed seeds home and plant them,” Ida says. “Or if you wish, get some milkweed

plants later in the spring from Garden Fever or other nurseries.”

Planting as much milkweed as possible, Ida explains, is crucial to the survival of the Monarchs. “Milkweed is the only plant that Monarchs can lay eggs on,” Ida explains, “and the only plant the caterpillars can eat until they turn into the next generation of these beautiful and beneficial butterflies.”

Ida also urges home gardeners to plant nectar-rich flowers that bloom in the summer and fall, to provide food for the adult butterflies. “If home gardeners and small businesses in Oregon and down the coast to California will plant milkweed and flowers,” she explains, “it would provide a Monarch-friendly corridor for their annual migration.”

Without widespread support from home gardeners and businesses with planters or flowerpots, Ida says the beautiful, delicate Monarchs may become only a memory on the West Coast.



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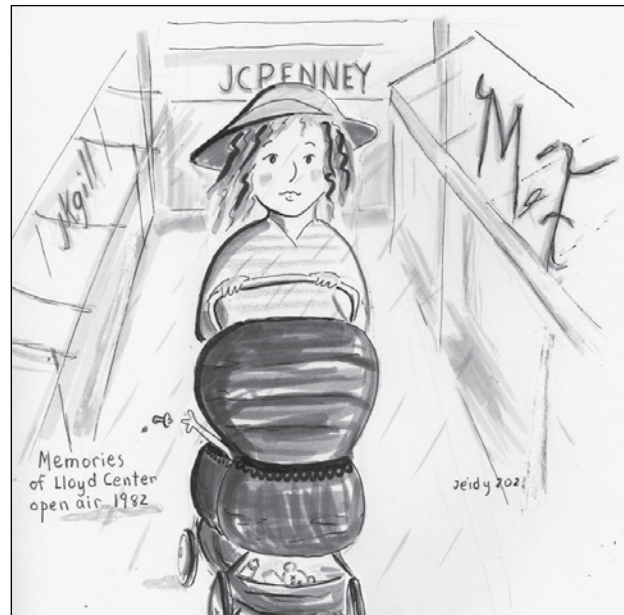
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Picture Windows: Lloyd Center – The End of an Era? *by Gail Jeidy*

Sigh. Our lone neighborhood department store holdout S has closed. The Oregonian article about the shuttering of Macy's Lloyd Center lies on my coffee table like an elegy for an old friend. Sure, I've had a couple years to prepare. News of Macy's closing stores across the country began way before the pandemic.

But Macy's employees always calmed my fears. They promised they would stay open as long as the mall stayed open. Relax, they said. I could continue to pop on over, shop for essentials, then go home knowing the women in linens would be there tomorrow to help me choose my thread counts, the upper floors would be replete with selections I could physically touch, and the clerks would be ready and ringing up a sale price and a wee thrill with each purchase (I once got a shirt for a penny). Plus, the idea of trying on clothes before you buy would not go away.



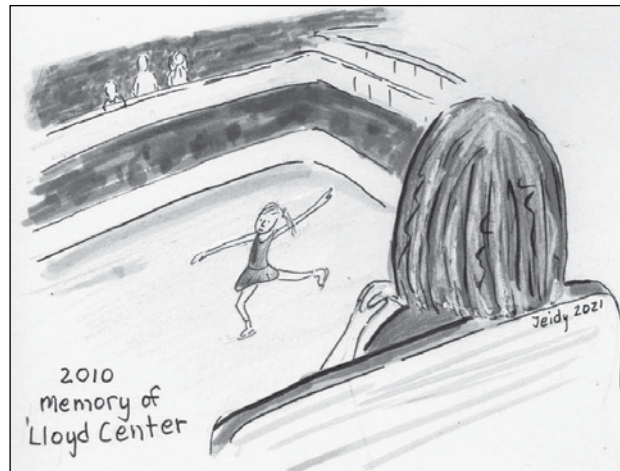
Everything has changed. And with it, the mall.

I have no new information about Lloyd Center. I hold faint hope it will reinvent and survive. A recent Oregonian article reported at least 37 storefronts empty on the first two floors. My February count (amid 5,000 steps) put store and restaurant closures at 68 on three floors. The article stepped through a bit of Lloyd Center history but didn't show a photo of its open-air days nor mention the recent \$50 million "renovation" that began in March 2015 to little commercial or community benefit. Improvements included an elegant spiral staircase and a significantly smaller, but now oval ice rink, which created empty floor space that has remained unused.

The mall has played a significant part in my life, and it's been sad to watch its decline. I think of Pompei – the Pompei referenced by Forbes economist Bill Conerly (Jan. 28, 2021) warning how cities can die and pondering whether Portland will be one of them. It's a stinging allusion, but I find myself thinking of Lloyd Center, and our positioning here in the shadow of a volcano (Mt. Hood vs. Vesuvius), as well as archaeologists' recent discovery of the world's first shop fronts in Pompei dating back to 200 B.C. We've come a long way since ancient days, but have we entered the waning years of brick and mortar retail?

For the archaeological record, let me excavate the way we were.

My first memory of Lloyd Center is from 1982, as a newcomer to Portland pushing my infant son through open-air corridors.



I was a first-time mom, in love with my baby, experiencing the sometimes crisp, oftentimes wet elements. Christmas shopping with music wafting through the corridors was particularly lovely. When the mall enclosed in the late 80s, I was sad to see the sky go and couldn't understand how blocking out nature was an improvement.

I remember Toys R Us, and waiting for my infant to be old enough to be enticed by the aisles of fun. Somehow he grew up in a flash, and I learned to avoid that end of the mall because exiting the store had become a hassle. It was a rerun with our daughters, subbing Polly Pockets for He-Men. Still, I felt a tinge of sadness when the store closed, and that era of their childhood and toys was in the rearview mirror.

Lloyd Center was where we got our wedding rings, where we had portraits taken, where we had photos developed, and where we shopped for clothes. With my little boy, shopping was more of me searching for where he was hiding in the clothes rounders. Later, it became about sports attire, like the bright orange sweatpants he wore while biking down a muddy hill the first day we bought them from J.C.Penneys. I didn't have a lot of money back then and the mud splatter stains never came out.

My girls' development from toddler to little girl to big girl was marked by the department store kids' sections and The Children's Place. My youngest daughter never grew tired of trying on clothes (and different personas). Her sister grew weary after trying on two tops.

Lloyd Center was where my kids got their first jobs and where I could quietly show up and watch them work. Most memorable was peeking in on my oldest daughter as she worked the floor at Hollister, folding and refolding all the jeans that customers messed up. The never-ending task was the universe's sweet revenge, given the state of her room at home.

Lloyd Center was where we went for family fun. My son shined dunking baskets at the arcade, and the girls skated from ages four and five. Friday night fun skate became our routine, along with pizza or dumplings or great Indian food



from the place that didn't take credit cards. Our youngest was serious about the sport, doing private lessons for years. I loved to sit rinkside and watch her turn and spin. After she left home and went 2,000 miles away to college, some days I would sit and watch other young figure skaters do the same.

I've been watching at Lloyd Center for almost 40 years. I know the early morning lower level entrance to the ice rink. The hidden corridors the paramedics wheeled my daughter through after her skating accident. I've watched stores come and go. In the past six years, I've watched the arcade and cinema shutter, and then the exodus. An always full parking lot has diminished to a few vehicles.

The ice rink recently reopened. But are three people skating enough to turn this story around?




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UPCOMING ALAMEDA AREA EVENTS

ALAMEDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Connect to Kindergarten 2021-2022 Zoom Event

Monday, April 7, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

For more information visit pps.net/alameda

FRIENDS OF WILSHIRE PARK

Native Plant Talk at Wilshire Park NatureSpace

Saturday, April 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

Walk through the park's NatureSpace with Willow Elliott, President of the Portland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, as she discusses the environmental benefits of using native plants in your home or business garden.

Topics will include commonly available native plants, their usefulness in providing food and shelter for insect pollinators, and their adaptability and low water use.

Meet at the Wilshire Park NatureSpace near the building at the south end of the park's paved walkway.

COLUMBIA SLOUGH WATERSHED COUNCIL

Living With Floods Webinar #3: "Rainstorm Runoff? Rising Rivers? Oh My!"

Wednesday, April 28, from 6-7 p.m.

Explore ideas for creating a more resilient watershed at this virtual event.

For more information and registration visit columbiaslough.org.

SNOW DAY (WEEK?) 2021!

Alameda neighbors wasted no time getting out to enjoy the snow last month. The mid-February storm began with a blanket of fluffy white flakes and ended with a layer of ice that toppled trees and knocked out power for many residents. As usual, Dead Man's Hill transformed into a mecca for sledders, and throughout Alameda, people found ways to make the most of the winter weather.



Clea Caldwell and her son, Zan, 13, got out their skis and made tracks down NE Alameda.



Cyan Cox, 11, and his brother Rye, 9, turned their front yard into a snowboard slope.



Alan Sheffland and Pam Ziegenhagen-Sheffland checked out Dead Man's Hill with their 13-year-old Standard Schnauzers, Ecko and McKay.

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