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The Southwest Portland Post

Southwest Portland's Independent Neighborhood Newspaper

MULTNOMAH NOTEBOOK:

Traffic calming
needed along
Garden Home Road
— Page 4

Volume No. 20, Issue No. 2

www.swportlandpost.com

Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

December 2011

First Friday in the Village



The Columbia Basin Basketry Guild displayed exquisite baskets and demonstrated their craft on November 4 at the Multnomah Arts Center. Story and additional photos on Page 5. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

Planners examine 'High Crash' corridor; Open house scheduled for December 6 at Markham School

BARBUR CONCEPT PLAN

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

As its first stage, City of Portland planners associated with the Barbur Concept Plan are looking at existing conditions on the boulevard. To gain additional public feedback, they have scheduled an open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. December 6 at Markham School, 10531 S.W. Capitol Hwy.

The Plan's emphasis will be on land uses along Southwest Barbur Boulevard, and will determine what is appropriate there and what changes, including zone changes, are best calculated to achieve them.

The Barbur Plan is associated with a larger plan, the Southwest Corridor Study, which will look at potential new major travel facilities, including a possible new light rail line.

The project staff has compiled a report of existing conditions, and dis-

cussed them with their citizen advisory committee last month.

Although there are 20 different zoning classifications for the land adjacent to Barbur, the report found, four basic classifications predominate: multi-family and single family on the north end, with a small cluster of commercial at Southwest Hamilton Street, and general commercial and office South of Southwest Terwilliger Boulevard.

This reflects the uses on the north end, although between Hamilton and Terwilliger on the west side is the area known as "the woods," wooded hill-sides attached to either single family, open space or undeveloped land. In the north end there are historic and design overlays governing redevelopment.

South of Terwilliger, Barbur is given over to commercial use. It includes the newly-refurbished Burlingame Fred Meyer and the soon-to-be rebuilt Safeway but, the staff report notes, is dominated by "1950s-style car-oriented restaurants" and Class B and C office
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Rebuilt Burlingame Fred Meyer offers more

The "new and improved" Burlingame Fred Meyer, closed since May, reopened in October following a \$19 million renovation. The store at 7555 SW Barbur Blvd. has increased in size by 15,000 square feet, to 92,000 square feet overall, but manager Jack Molencamp says much of this is storage space. What counts is what's inside.

The store now boasts bigger and better gourmet cheese, meat, seafood, natural foods, wine and dry grocery sections, and a dessert kiosk that's "just beautiful," Molencamp said. There are now elevators to the upper level parking.

"We've dramatically increased the holding power of our frozen food displays," Molencamp said. The on-site eating area has more than doubled in

size, and has a handy Sushi bar and an on-site Peet's Coffee dispensary. They hold regular wine tastings.

In addition to having more to sell, the store is also greener. Numerous new skylights have been installed, and are used for "daylight harvesting." When there is bright sunshine outside, sensors dim the already energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs so that they don't use more energy than necessary. Even the store's exterior sign has been equipped with more energy-efficient lighting.

And how do the customers like it? "They're so glad to have the store back," Molencamp said. "It's the local neighborhoods that own this store, and I'm happy to fill that role."

Stromer pleads guilty to eleven counts of 'theft by deception'

Reversing an earlier plea, former Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) Operations Manager Virginia Stromer pleaded guilty to all of the 11 counts of Theft by Deception with which she had been charged. The thefts from SWNI, carried out over a period of seven years,



The newly rebuilt Burlingame Fred Meyer store from the north side. (Post photo by Don Snedecor)

totaled more than \$130,000. A sentencing hearing has been set for January 20.

Suspensions were first aroused on October 5, 2010 when a check bounced because of insufficient funds, and a quick check by SWNI Executive Director Sylvia Bogert uncovered other irregularities. She called Stromer at home and asked her to report to work early to discuss the issues. Stromer, who had served SWNI for 15 years, resigned the next day via e-mail.

A nine-month investigation by Detective Ken Sukumoto, of the Portland Police Bureau, led to the indictment in July 2011. Stromer surrendered to authorities, was released on her own recognizance, and initially pleaded "not guilty" to the charges. Trial dates were postponed twice at the request of Stromer's attorney.

After protracted negotiations, SWNI reached a settlement with its insurance carriers. The amount was confidential as a condition of the settlement.

Interstate 5 ramps open, Multnomah Boulevard work continues

On November 17, to the sound of (unheard) trumpets and applause, the Interstate 5 freeway access ramps to Southwest Multnomah Boulevard were re-opened, marking the completion of this phase of the Burlingame Sewer Project. To the chagrin of Multnomah Village merchants, the ramps had been closed since early October for the project.

However, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services spokesperson Stephen Sykes told *The Post*, work will now commence on the north side of Multnomah between Southwest 22nd and 25th avenues. This work will be done at night, Sykes said, and during this time the ramp from south-bound Southwest Barbur Boulevard

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The Southwest Portland Post
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It's important for the Occupy Movement to stay peaceful

OPEN FORUM

By Wim Laven

There is an old adage for journalism: If it bleeds, it leads; we are reminded of this sentiment regularly.

Earlier this year I wrote about our need to see Osama bin Laden's body; the thirst for blood was alive and well after Muammar Gaddafi was killed as well. It is important to avoid such a reaction with the nonviolent Occupy Movement.

On October 25th images of police in gas masks, armed with tear-gas, violently dispersing a crowd in Oakland California, went viral.

Scott Olson, Veterans for Peace, was critically injured by a canister that struck him in the face and a subsequent flash grenade appears (very obviously in my opinion) to have been intentionally thrown into the group of protesters coming to his aid.

The images are disturbing, graphic and upsetting; resist the urge to fixate on the violence, but don't ignore it. On November 2nd, the people showed their solidarity and held a general strike and marched to the port of Oakland.

But, by midnight, the coverage had shifted; the interest was no longer the thousands of people who peacefully walked. It had turned to the bonfires, destruction and vandalism, and the renewed conflict with the police.

Martin Luther King Jr. famously used American bloodlust to garner attention for the African American Civil Rights Movement. The images of peaceful people—attacked by dogs and hoses turned on them—helped awaken people who

didn't believe things were "that bad." It was important to show the violence of inequality; it was important to shock people into action. The struggle for civil rights showed the struggle between the oppressed and the oppressor; it was graphic and clear.

Many people may not have understood the painful sting of being told, "move to the back of the bus," or "Not Allowed Here," but the ferocious images of violence weren't something people were merely "whining about."

Gandhi didn't have the advantage of ubiquitous cell phone pictures and film, but he took advantage of all the press he could get. He knew: the more real the violence directed against the nonviolent, the stronger the voice of opposition.

The world paid little attention to the challenge to the Salt Tax—it was easy to ignore such a "modest tax"—but, when Webb Miller described "they went down like ten-pins," it was too difficult for the world to ignore.

"From where I stood I heard the sickening whacks of the clubs on unprotected skulls," wrote Miller. "The waiting crowd of watchers groaned and sucked in their breaths in sympathetic pain at every blow. Those struck down fell sprawling, unconscious or writhing in pain with fractured skulls or broken shoulders."

The Occupy Movement has many parallels. After all, the challenge many are making is that occupiers are lazy whiners. Others say: if you don't like the banks—don't use them, and if you don't like the corporations—don't buy their products and services (I suppose the Indians didn't need salt either).

But many are changing their minds

and paying attention, because violent responses to nonviolent resistance have always called to the collective human consciousness. At our cores we know: *whatever the problem, violence is never the solution.*

The Occupation is about peace and social justice. In my mind it is all about the question of equality. The Declaration says: all men are created equal, and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

This is the Declaration of Independence; the United States of America was built on equality—not a healthy economy (read corporate profits).

Occupy Wall Street is only exposing this failure; people want to work, and don't want to have to make tough choic-

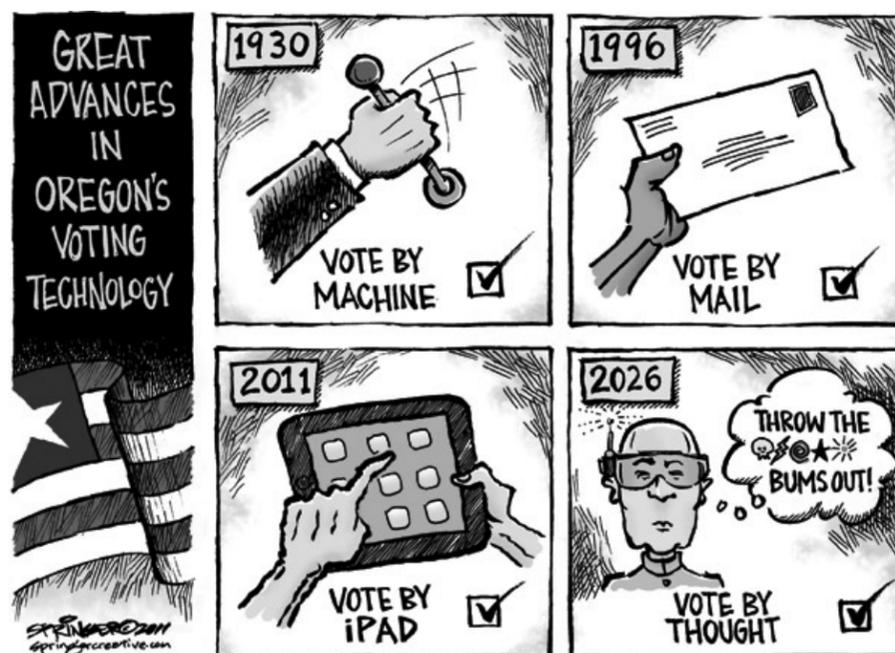
es about things like whether to pay for rent or health insurance or groceries...

I really hope that people can stay committed to the nonviolent struggle that is the Occupy Movement. Change does not come easy (the Montgomery Bus Boycott took 381 days!), and it does not come without sacrifice.

At this point, however, it is something the world needs. "America Shows Its Soul" reads the cover of The Hindu Magazine in Delhi.

This is a year of revolution—anything is possible—and with nonviolent struggle the voice is the loudest. I hope the country rediscovers its democratic voice; we only passed the Voting Act in 1965, in response to the long struggle

(Continued on Page 4)



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 web address: www.swportlandpost.com




Editor & Publisher: Don Snedecor
 Reporters/Writers: Polina Olsen, Lee Perlman, and Stephanie Lodromanean
 Retail Advertising Manager: Harry Blythe
 Graphic Design: Leslie Baird Design
 Printing: Oregon Lithoprint

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 Deadline for news and advertising is generally the 20th of the month prior to publication. Please call for current deadline information. Advertising rates are available upon request.

The Post has a circulation of 7,000 in Multnomah Village and the surrounding neighborhood business districts including Burlingame, Capitol Hill, Garden Home, Glen Cullen, Hillsdale, South Portland, Raleigh Hills, West Portland and Vermont Hills. The Post is published on or about the 1st of every month. Subscriptions are \$14 per year. Back issues are \$2.50 each when available. All major credit cards accepted.




The Post is printed on recycled newsprint using soy-based inks. 

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BARBUR CONCEPT PLAN

(Continued from Page 1)

buildings occupied by professional services.

The rental rates for this space are lower than the average citywide going rate, but so is the vacancy rate; the report found 107,000 square feet of vacant commercial space on the boulevard.

North of Terwilliger, Barbur is the main through route to downtown and the Ross Island Bridge; to the south, there is more local circulation. Traffic volumes on the boulevard range from 15,000 vehicle trips per day to just under 40,000.

Barbur is a High Crash corridor with 71 reported crashes at the I-5-Capitol Highway intersection between 2006 and 2009, 41 at Terwilliger in the same period, and a significant number at Southwest 53rd Avenue, Bertha Boulevard, and Taylors Ferry Road.

The largest percentage of crashes were rear-ends, while a significant

number were from cars turning at intersections, often disregarding traffic signals. There is a fairly complete system of bike lanes, but some significant gaps, especially at overpasses.

To no one's surprise, the report found that most of Barbur has poor pedestrian facilities. Between Hamilton and Terwilliger there are no sidewalks on the west side and, between the Rasmussen Village housing project and Southwest Brier Street, none on the east side either.

South of Terwilliger, the report found, "Sidewalks are discontinuous, with long stretches where they do not exist, and not complying with City standards in many cases where they do."

There are only five signalized crossings along the road's 6.18-mile length. Further, multiple commercial driveways "present strong challenges for residents to safely walk Barbur."

Likewise, south of Brier, sidewalks on streets connecting Barbur to the surrounding neighborhoods are "sporadic," the report found. It mentioned

that the Southwest Trails network provided an important alternative.

There is TriMet bus service along the entire street from Line 12, and for portions of it from Lines 1, 38, 44, 53, 55, 56 and 94. However, the report found that the bus stops in many cases are "nothing more than a sign mounted on a pole without shelters...and without developed sidewalks at or leading to them."

The residential areas within a quarter mile of Barbur, which contain at least potential clientele for current and future businesses, have a median household income of \$65,000, compared to a city-wide average of \$54,000.

Hillsdale activist Don Baack, who attended an advisory committee meeting last month, pointed out, "There are some pockets of pretty poor people there, and it's important that they have transit service."

Storm water runoff is an issue in the area, particularly since the soils have a poor capacity to absorb water quickly, and major new development might require new facilities.

At last month's meeting Baack said of this part of the report, "There are constraints with every category. So often we make plans with no way in hell to get money to make them happen."



The convoluted intersection of Barbur Boulevard and Capitol Highway includes a bridge and onramp to Interstate 5 south. (Post file photo by Leslie Baird)

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

(Continued from Page 1)

to Multnomah westbound will be closed.

Starting in January the work will continue on Multnomah between Southwest 25th and 31st avenues, and this work will be performed during the day, Sykes said. Crews will keep at least one lane open in each direction from 7 to 9 a.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., he said. Between these times, traffic may be restricted to one lane controlled by flaggers. The work is likely to continue into the summer, Sykes said.

Love and Pearson tie in vote for SWNI vice president

The post of First Vice President of the Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. board remained vacant as *The Post* went to press. In October the board voted 14-2, with two abstentions, to remove Jim McLaughlin of West Portland Park from this post, and to bar him from the SWNI office.

No official reason was given. McLaughlin later resigned from other affiliations with West Portland Park, citing unspecified "personal reasons."

Last spring, at SWNI's annual elections, McLaughlin unseated incumbent Ken Love of South Portland for the First Vice President position.

Last month Love offered himself as a candidate to fill the position, as did Sam Pearson of South Burlingame. A written ballot of board members present produced a tie vote between the two candidates.

SWNI's bylaws do not allow the board president to vote, even

to break a tie. After some debate, the board voted to let its executive committee decide the matter in December.

Portland Plan feedback opportunities extended

In response to requests by community activists and others, the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability has extended the deadline for written response to the draft Portland Plan. Originally concluding at the end of November, the new deadline is December 28.

Comments can be sent via U.S. Mail to Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Portland Plan, 1900 S.W. Fourth Ave., Suite 7100, Portland, 97201; or via web to psc@portland-oregon.gov, with the subject line "Portland Plan." The Plan can be downloaded at www.pdxplan.com.

The Plan states that in reviewing the city's needs geographically, "One size does not fit all." However, SWNI board president Marianne Fitzgerald noted that planners have rejected the 95 neighborhoods defined by residents as basic geographic units.

Instead, they have divided the city into five sub-areas, with the southwest and northwest hills dubbed the Western Neighborhoods, and South Portland lumped in with Inner Neighborhood, most of them on the east side.

They have also divided the city into 24 "Commercial hubs." Southwest contains five of these: Tryon Creek-Riverdale, Hillsdale-Multnomah-Barbur, West Portland, Raleigh Hills, and South Portland-Marquam Hill. The draft Plan analyzes these areas and suggests short and long-term strategies for improvement.

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MULTNOMAH NOTEBOOK

By Maria Cahill

Hillsdale Terrace update from Home Forward (formerly Housing Authority of Portland)

Home Forward is trying to help people find housing and stabilize their lives. Background on the project was presented. The proposed new name for the re-development is "Stephens Creek Crossing."

They are still looking for Section 8 landlords to help families with kids in school and others stay in this neighborhood. The California Street neighbors are working with Home Forward to determine pedestrian connections passing through the site and to what extent California Street should be developed.

Most agree that Texas Street was somewhat overbuilt. The current proposal for California Street is 20' right-of-way with curbs and sidewalks. Home Forward is proposing a "woonerf."

[Note: woonerfs are the Dutch term what we might call a "shared street" or "universal street.]

Only five houses are using California Street and a comment from Rachel Dvorsky, one of those neighbors, was that the road is currently in such poor shape that the five neighbors use an-

other route to get to their houses now anyway and would continue to do so. She also said that a narrower road would be better.

Home Forward invited Kay Durtschi, Multnomah's transportation chair, to the next citizen advisory committee meeting because right now Hillsdale's voice is dominating the conversation.

A discussion ensued regarding who should be commenting on what and why. For information: California Street is in the Multnomah neighborhood, but Hillsdale Terrace/Stephens Creek Crossing is in Hillsdale.

Fire Station #18 Update

Fire Station #18, located at 8720 SW 30th Ave, is undergoing a seismic upgrade. The station is temporarily located at 9155 SW Barbur Blvd. A discussion of buying additional property ensued. There will be multiple contractors on site, working early and some on the weekends. Electricity and water upgrades are in progress and expansion at the current site is occurring. Project completion is expected in January and there will be an open house.

A motion of support was made that the Multnomah Neighborhood Association stand behind the adjoining neighbors' direction of a narrow street width or pedestrian friendly solution for the California Street development. Motion seconded. Discussion ensued. 19 in favor, none against, one abstention.

Capitol Highway/Sidewalk Infill

Randy Bonella reported that the Capitol Highway Project (between Taylors Ferry Road and Multnomah Boulevard) has been shelved. The \$5.6 million is being reallocated. Open house attendees advocated using it for sidewalk infill.

Rob Gardner reported that he agrees with Randy's characterization. The Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition is considering 5 different projects for reallocation.

PBOT (Portland Bureau of Transportation) is compiling a list of actual, physically "improvable" projects and looking at ways to reduce the City's liability redeveloping them with Southwest topographical appropriate standards.

The impression from a meeting of members and SWNI President Marianne Fitzgerald and the mayor was that the Bureau of Environmental Services may or may not follow suit in trying to help with redevelopment standards appropriate to our neighborhood.

Garden Home Traffic Calming

Traffic calming (currently speed tables as indicated by the word BUMP painted on the road along this stretch of Garden Home) from Capitol Highway to 45th Avenue is proposed. This crosses neighborhood associations. MNA was invited to join the Ash Creek working group discussions,

even though decisions on what the City should do would be up to individual neighborhoods.

Randy talked to all the homeowners along there. He hasn't talked to apartment dwellers and still needs to get clarification on whether we need to talk to homeowners or renters. There's a 12-unit condo building and another complex with 23 additional units or so.

Randy visited 14 homes. Six said yes, they were in favor of moving the discussion forward. Three were on the fence but didn't seem to care; one said no, and four he hasn't been able to talk to.

A neighbor who lives on the curve on Garden Home and has witnessed many accidents made an argument that we need traffic calming along this stretch of road in our neighborhood; caution chevrons at beginning of curve seem to have reduced accidents, but additional traffic calming is needed.

Speed bumps need to be spaced carefully; a flashing speed limit sign might be good, too. Randy said average speed was 38 mph, peak speed was 55 mph. Becca Jones commented that she lives and walks on that stretch of Garden Home and it feels dangerous everyday.

A motion was made that the MNA request the City do a study for traffic calming on our segment of Garden Home Road. Motion seconded. 11 in favor, four against, three abstentions. Motion passed.

Discussion ensued. We're not taking a position on the means of traffic calming such as speed tables, flashing signlights, etc. Speed tables in other parts of the neighborhood have been used a launching pads for young drivers and causing damage to neighbor's yards and endangering people.

Sarah White reminded us that in a previous meeting we presented that the MNA would have the opportunity to respond to PBOT's proposed solution if we initiate the study process and contact with the people along that stretch of road.

An opposing view was presented that considering budget cuts this year and next for PBOT, we need to be a careful what we advocate money to be spent on.

Money was allocated out of HB 2001 funds, identified specifically for traffic calming, but certainly, as evidenced by the \$5.6M that was just reallocated to Capitol Highway; the money could possibly be reallocated for other projects.

Moses Ross will relay to the Ash Creek NA that he has heard some concerns that speed tables have drawbacks and that some people would like to explore other options.

Maria Cahill is secretary of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association.

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OPEN FORUM

Occupy Movement
(Continued from Page 2)

for equality. We have an oligarchy because our elected officials' campaigns are sponsored by the very industries they are supposed to regulate.

Economists were the ones who told former President Richard Nixon not to sign the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; they said: the right to a job would hurt the economy; we can change this back to a government for the people.

Wim Laven is an adjunct professor in Conflict Resolution at Portland State University.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Multnomah Village

By Polina Olsen
The Southwest Portland Post

Multnomah Village was beginning to look like Christmas, especially during November's First Friday. As usual, the village celebrated the first Friday evening of the month with extended business hours, specials, wine, munchies and more. On November 4, lights shone, the street glowed, and stuffed animals gazed from the windows at the toy store. We strolled along Southwest Capitol Highway to catch the air and check out the fun.



Jazz duo Ben Graves and Marc Hutchinson set the mood at the Geezer Gallery. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

At our first stop, **The Geezer Gallery**, a crowd of all ages sampled wine and gorgeous plates of cookies that looked like artwork themselves. Jazz duo Ben Graves and Marc Hutchinson set the mood. The gallery promotes accomplished elder artists. This night they opened an Iraqi artist's show called *Unveiling: Farooq Haasan*.

Across the street, the **Multnomah Arts Center** held several events starting with passersby munching fruit, cookies and cake around the comfortable lobby.

Tonight featured the opening reception of the center's instructor art show (runs through November 29). This included finely crafted metal arts, textiles, ceramics and paintings. We paused to admire Carol Hupage's marvelous bright picture of the state fair. In the next room, a row of women from the **Columbia Basin Basketry Guild** (www.basketryguild.org) displayed exquisite baskets and demonstrated their craft. The group meets at the arts center the third Thursday of every month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Check their website for special beginners classes.

Moving up the street, **Thinker Toys** celebrated 17 years in business with a sale. A human-sized (not giraffe-sized), sweet-faced toy giraffe pointed the way to complementary treats. Former Multnomah Neighborhood Association Chair Randy Bonella showcased his handmade wooden pens at the **Village Frame & Gallery**. Priced between \$20 and \$60, and using standard refills, they'd make an elegant and practical gift.

After all the cookies, we passed on

Fat City's \$9.95 *All You Can Eat Spaghetti Special*. (Kids under 12 eat free.) Instead, we took a break at **Annie Bloom's Books**, filled as usual with browsers quietly combing the shelves. Store cat Molly Bloom, the successor to the late renowned Oscar Wilde, curled up in the cash register out-box, as cats will. "We call it the cat-basket now," a salesperson explained.

O'Connor's Restaurant and Bar was jumping, **Jules of Morocco** looked exotic, and customers sat stringing treasures across the street at **Village Beads**.

Over at **MonoGraphic Studio** across from the old post office, photographer Lee Meier hosted his usual First Friday celebration. A group on comfy couches by the fireplace enjoyed complementary wine and hors d'oeuvres as they waited for the band to arrive. Meier said, "It's a chance to network with other photographers, models, neighbors and friends. Doors open wider at 5 p.m. Bring a friend."

If you missed November's First Friday, never mind, there are many more. Holiday Gala in the Village kicks off December 2 at 5:30 p.m. and runs all weekend. So forget the crowded malls. Find that special and original gift in the village.

Join Santa for carriage rides, live music, caroling, and complimentary treats. Expect door prizes, and customer gifts. Start Saturday with an 8:30 a.m. pancake breakfast at the **Lucky Lab**, a benefit for the Southwest Hills Kiwanis Club. Remember, parking is on the street and in the lower lot of the Multnomah Arts Center.



Randy Bonella showcased his handmade wooden pens at the Village Frame & Gallery. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

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Chamberlain cleverly melds scientific reasoning into metaphor

BOOK REVIEW

By Stephanie Lodromeanan
The Southwest Portland Post

On October 13 Glen Chamberlain came by Annie Bloom's Books in Multnomah Village for a reading. She was there in support of her new book of short stories called "Conjugations of the Verb To Be."

You might have missed the reading, but the book is something that shouldn't be overlooked. In her career as an author, Chamberlain has been awarded a Pushcart Prize, Gilcrease Prize and Rona Jaffe award for her fiction.

Currently Chamberlain is a writing professor at Montana State University. Although her name might not be as recognizable as some of the bestselling authors, there is something special about the way she tells a story and she is worth looking into.

"Conjugations" is a collection of short stories which cleverly melds scientific reasoning into metaphor; displays a variety of narrators which

choose to stray from traditional; and chooses to focus on tiny aspects of life which when actually analyzed can display just how meaningful seemingly immaterial things are, like how to properly pronounce a person's name.

One of the superior strengths that Chamberlain exhibits in her writing is a beautiful way of telling a story, taking the reader through elegant prose and slowly sneaking in the wisdom of revelation.

Reading any one of the eleven stories straps you into the life of a young girl, a wandering twenty-something, or a jaded professor, and there are plenty of others.

You find yourself quickly navigating through the thought systems of a life that isn't your own, but Chamberlain draws you in so perfectly that you start to understand and deconstruct their lives.

With each start to Chamberlain's stories there is this idea that you know what is happening, that of course you can tell the situation before even the character can put them together, and with each story there is this air of superiority over watching

the story unfold from some place above it all.

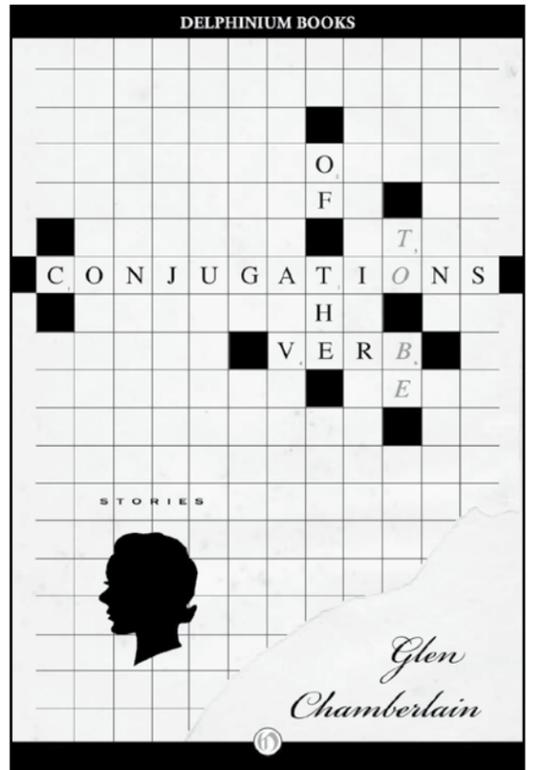
One such story is "The Track of Animals," in which a weepy and insecure wife, stricken with the plight of losing her love one snowy night, is the focus.

"Out on the ranch, she felt no separation between herself and the world; she moved through it unmembraned, unaware of borders. Only in town did she feel the shape she had made of herself and, by consequence, her limitations."

As the story progresses you stop fighting against her apparent frailty and start to understand what made her that way and what it's like to go through such heartbreaking events as she does.

With each word she uses to progress the story, you find yourself falling into place and rooting for these underdog figures to figure out the situation so you can have a revelatory moment with them.

If you are looking to read something with wisdom and thoughtful



Conjugations of the Verb To Be, by Glen Chamberlain, 193 pages, softcover: \$11.95. Delphinium Press, September 2011

reflections on life, in all its forms and stages, than I suggest turning to "Conjugations of the Verb To Be."

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Happy Holidays from all of us at The Post!
The Southwest Portland Post

Kathryn Ann Kaser Dodge 1937-2011

OBITUARY

Kathryn Ann Kaser Dodge, 74, died peacefully on November 15, 2011. She was born, raised, and lived her entire life in Portland, Oregon. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends in the community.

Kay was educated at Beaumont Elementary School and she graduated from Grant High School. She attended Oregon State University and received a bachelor's degree in Home Economics.

Kay received her teacher certification from Lewis and Clark College. She was also an active member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority and Delta Kappa Gamma Educators Society.

Since retiring from teaching in the Portland Public School District, Kay was an active community patron.

She was a member of Portland Art Museum Asian Art Council, the Literary Arts and Lecture series, Portland Symphony, Portland Opera, Portland Contemporary Arts Guild, Mazamas, Friends of the Columbia River Gorge, Friends of Timberline Lodge and many other civic organizations.

Kay graciously supported the many school activities of her great nephews and nieces. She never said no to fundraising activities, and she frequently attended their school performances, sports tournaments, science fairs and band concerts.

Kay was a wonderful friend to many in Portland, joining them

for classes, events, or going out to lunch. Kay enjoyed her folk dancing lessons, bible study and book group, alumnae societies and Balalaika music lessons.

She is survived by her husband, Nick Dodge; her sister, Carolyn Kaser Fairman; and her cousin, Dolores Harris. Kay will be greatly missed by her six nieces and nephews, and her nine great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, December 3 at 1 pm at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be given to the Friends of the Columbia River Gorge and the Friends of Timberline Lodge.

Editor's Note: According to her niece Kay loved shopping and dining in Multnomah Village.



Riversgate Church purchases building in the Village

Riversgate Church has purchased the property at 7634 SW Capitol Hwy. in Multnomah Village.

The congregation currently rents the Multnomah Center on Sundays, and houses their office at 3612 SW Troy St. They have been meeting in Multnomah since 2002.

Riversgate's involvement in the Multnomah community has included free summer basketball camps, free meals, a transitional home for men, midweek youth meetings, as well as outreaches to the homeless in downtown Portland. The church also supports mission efforts in Chile, Uganda, and Mexico.

Formerly a carpentry shop, the building on Capitol Highway will allow Riversgate to further establish itself in this community and provide opportunities for expanded ministries and community outreach.

The remodel plan after structural upgrades is for a large meeting area along with children's classrooms, offices and a kitchen.

The building front will blend with neighboring structures and will en-



(photo courtesy Carol Reid, Riversgate Church)

hance that section of Capitol Highway. The completion date is tentatively scheduled for October 2012.

Pastor Rob Anthony says, "Riversgate is what I think of as a 'community church.' I see the people I worship with on Sunday walking through the village during the week, or eating at Fat City. Our kids see each other not just on Sunday but at school all week too."

"So it's really true when we say as a church we care about this community because so many of us live here and are a part of it."

"That's a big reason why we are so happy to have the opportunity to put down deeper roots right in the heart of the village and in the process redeem an old building that has been here since 1928."

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Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard of green roofs, but what are "green walls?"
 — P. Spencer, Alcoa, TN

Green walls (also known as biowalls, vertical gardens or vertical vegetated complex walls) are wall structures partly composed of or filled in with growing plant matter.

More than just easy on the eyes, green walls work like green roofs by filtering air and water, soaking up carbon dioxide and helping lessen the "heat island" effect of urban areas while reducing air conditioning costs in their host buildings.

The self-proclaimed creator of the vertical garden concept, French botanist Patrick Blanc, pioneered the use of hydroponic cultivation techniques.

Plants grow in an irrigated mineral nutrient solution without the need for a soil substrate to create large green wall installations.

These installations thrive in residential settings and within larger public structures and even office buildings from Singapore to San Francisco and points in between.

Blanc's installations start by placing a metal frame on a load-bearing wall

or structure. The frame supports a 10-millimeter-thick PVC plate, upon which are stapled two 3-millimeter-thick layers of polyamide felt.

"These layers mimic cliff-growing mosses and support the roots of many plants," he says, adding that a network of pipes and valves provides a nutrient solution of dissolved minerals needed for plant growth.

"The felt is soaked by capillary action with this nutrient solution, which flows down the wall by gravity."

"The roots of the plants take up the nutrients they need, and excess water is collected at the bottom of the wall by a gutter before being re-injected into the network of pipes: The system works in a closed circuit."

Plants are chosen for their ability to grow in this type of environment and depending on available light.

"Each vertical garden is a unique wall composition of various types of plants that has to take into account the specific surroundings of the place in which it is created," says landscape architect Michael Hellgren, who founded the firm Vertical Garden Design in 2004.

"It is not only the colorful interplay between the plants on a 'green wall' that is fascinating, but also the appearance of the wall itself, which changes daily."

Hellgren, who has designed and implemented large green walls in his home country of Sweden as well as in Spain, Portugal and Italy, among other locales, sources plants for his projects from various climate zones around the world.

His favorites are so called "lithophytes:" plants that can grow on rocks, branches and tree trunks without nec-



Green walls, or "vertical gardens," are walls partly composed of or filled in with live plant matter. They filter air and water, soak up carbon dioxide and help lessen the "heat island" effect of urban areas while reducing air conditioning costs in their host buildings. Pictured: a vertical garden at the Anataeum Hotel in London. (Photo courtesy of Niall Napier, Flickr)

essarily being rooted in soil. "Among other things these climbing plants have the enormous advantage of their roots acting as excellent natural drainage on the wall," he adds.

While large "vertical gardens" are surely impressive, critics question the sustainability of such endeavors, given the energy inputs needed to run the pumps and other equipment used to maintain proper nutrient and air flows, and the emissions caused by the manufacture and transport of specialized materials.

Also, larger green walls need more water than rain alone can provide, and thus don't necessarily save water. But as the field matures, practitioners are

finding wider arrays of plants to choose from that are better at taking care of themselves.

Practitioners are scaling back on inputs and supporting machinery with the hope that one day many of the walls will be self-sustaining gardens that cleanse our dirty air and compromised storm water.

CONTACTS: Patrick Blanc, www.verticalgardenpatrickblanc.com; Vertical Garden Design, www.verticalgardendesign.com.

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