Alberta St. Project Revisited 23 Years Later

By Luke Griffin

Back in 1992, Alberta Street was a different place. Very few of the current businesses had opened, there was no gold rush of land development, and the city had yet to spend money on beautifying the neighborhood, making it more pedestrian friendly, or providing assistance to small businesses. Alberta Street neighborhoods also had over 50% more African-Americans than they do today. The City largely neglected the area where houses often cost less than $100,000 and incomes were well below the median range. The influx of investment beginning in the late 90s changed much of the landscape but before that occurred, a group of students set out to gather data and better understand the history of Alberta Street.

During the spring and summer of 1992, these young people engaged in an ambitious study of their neighborhood, surveying businesses, researching the long history of Alberta, talking with neighbors and compiling an impressive amount of useful data about the place they called “home.” Led by Dr. Bob Zybach and Michael “Chappie” Grice of Urban Forestry, Inc., students ultimately created the “1992 Alberta Street Cultural Inventory with Recommendations”. Now, 23 years later, the Zybach and Grice are aiming to do it again.

Like before, the 2015 Alberta Street Project will employ African-American youth from the area full time to conduct the various forms of data collection. They will use GPS, computers, and iPhones and will have the 1992 study as a constant reference to guide their work all while learning technical and communication skills and networking with local business and community leaders.

Besides providing skilled summer jobs, the project aims to address issues of gentrification, gang violence, and examine social events, particularly Last Thursday. It will also explore causes and possible remedies for failing businesses and attempt to make a inventory of the trees and plants that make up the urban canopy. Other areas of focus will be drainage patterns, traffic flow, crime statistics, and even restaurant reviews. The teams will attempt to contact all local businesses and many residents including those recent to the area and those who have been around since before the initial study.

The proposed start date for the project is in late June and will last nine weeks throughout the summer. As before, Zybach and Grice will lead the teams. The project itself specifically targets the Alberta District including Concordia as well as Sabin but the hope is that this project can be used as a model for other students in neighborhoods around the country. Unlike future projects though, this one will have the benefit of preexisting, comparable data.

In the end, there will be three products to assist the neighborhoods and the city in understanding where Alberta started, how it has changed and is changing over time, and how to proceed in the future to create a livable Alberta Street:

The “2015 Alberta Street Cultural Resource Inventory with Recommendations”: The centerpiece of the project will be researched and written by students and will replicate the original 1992 report, but to current technical standards. It will also include an entirely new component of a detailed comparative analysis in changes to the Alberta Street neighborhood during the past 23 years.

The “Alberta Street Project Operations Manual”: The manual will be written during the course of the project by its original designers and administrators, Zybach and Grice.

The Website: This will include PDF files of the two written reports as well as a permanent and comprehensive archive of student findings and results, including; maps, photographs, transcribed interviews and other products of their summer employment experiences that can be accessed by the general public.

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Chair’s Corner

Thanks for checking back in to see what’s new in the Chair’s Corner. Over the last month, Board focus has been on home demolition, skinny houses and generally how we interface with City Hall to have more control over the destiny of our neighborhood. This struggle over who is in the driver’s seat will continue on for the foreseeable future. It seems that communities have been doing this since the first cave dweller saw the guy next door with a stone axe chipping his rock with a building permit in hand. Finding a balance between what we value and the need for living in the present is difficult at best.

If you have ever been in a place like Deerfield, Massachusetts, where the entire village is pre-revolutionary America; you would see preservation and respect for tradition are first and foremost. Museum and not a town? Yes, it is a considered town with some commercial and residential components (I think I counted 12) but, for all its beauty and charm, neither an economically dynamic environment nor a place to raise a family dynasty. However, no one would want to change it.

I use the skinny house as an example here but only to make a point. Skinny houses are here to stay if only because a builder can make money in constructing these homes. Average Skinny house is built on land costing $100,000 to $150,000; construction costing around $180,000 and selling for about $400,000. Today’s market makes it affordable for those from outside $100,000 to $150,000; construction costing around $180,000 and selling for about $400,000. Today’s market makes it affordable for those from outside

We need to discuss internally what we want our neighborhood to look like. While deciding on design and zoning currently happens in City Hall, our neighborhood will have a real say in what gets built at some point. We need to come together now and decide what makes both aesthetic and economic sense. I have seen skinny houses (or ultra-modern metal - clad 3 - story homes) constructed where no one took into account what that house would look like compared with others close by, and the last dime on the table was the only consideration. At the same time, I have seen a similar house(s) that really did exhibit appropriate design and architectural detail built on property that was formerly a random, drafty eyesore of a building and even entire sections of streets. It is our responsibility to balance all the considerations and provide guidance for “outside” builders in our neighborhood instead of allowing the City planning department to decide what works for us. And one more thing about skinny houses to those who will build them . . .

Mr. Builder, I recognize the opportunity to make money by selling to those who don’t have a problem buying any skinny house, but please engage architects whose talents keep garages below grade to reduce the height of the finished product. And most importantly, please find an architect who understands the importance of maintaining neighborhood character and design. Wood, cement, tile and paint costs the same but it is the look that will make the house desirable and a complement to the neighborhood. I also want to make special mention of an issue that may have tremendous effect on us, the proposed Pembina Terminal. I did not discuss the Pembina Terminal here as it is important enough to be taken up in a separate article, and I strongly urge you to study it. This issue will be a factor in the future quality of your life.

Thank you for letting me provide my two cents, and now I ask you for yours. Please write and let me know what is on your mind, and I will make sure it gets heard by the Board.

Isaac Quintero, Concordia Neighborhood Association, Chair
Summer Concerts Sponsors Needed

SUMMER CONCERTS IN FERNHILL PARK NEEDS Y-O-U!

A Call to Business Owners, Families, and Individuals!

There's no better way to spend a warm and breezy summer evening than gathering with friends and neighbors in Fernhill Park for music, dancing and family fun! For the last ten summers, the Fernhill Concert Series has been a smashing success—offering the finest musical talents that Portland has to offer free of charge! This year it all happens on four Friday nights starting July 10th through July 31st and ends with a big shebang on Tuesday August 4th for our Concordia Neighborhood National Night Out! The CNA Fernhill Concert Committee has begun the long, hard slog of fundraising for the Summer Concert Series, but we need your help to raise enough money to fund all five concerts! So, if you have the means, PLEASE DONATE! We are looking for local businesses and individuals to donate anything they can to help make the concerts happen! It doesn't matter if you are a business owner, a family, or an individual, WE NEED YOU! to help raise the money to produce another memorable concert season in Fernhill Park. If you are a family or individual and would like to contribute to this Spectacular Summer Series, please visit www.give2parks.org/concerts to donate!

- Choose FERNHILL PARK from the Pull Down Menu
- Donate Now & Get an Immediate Tax Receipt
- Any contribution (e.g. $5 or $10) is greatly appreciated!

If you would like to help the CNA Fernhill Concert Committee fundraise for this year's fabulous season, please contact Katie Ugolini at social@concordiapdx.org or 503-449-9690.

Furthermore, if you are a business, institution, or individual and want to be a Fernhill Concerts Sponsor by contributing $300 or more, you will receive these awesome benefits of sponsorship:

- Opportunity to have promotional table at all 5 concerts to display, give out handouts and brochures
- A chance to give to your neighborhood
- A tax deductible contribution staying "close to home"
- Your Business Name Recognized:
- A tax deductible contribution staying "close to home"
- A chance to give to your neighborhood

Your Business Name Recognized:

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Here are the options!

Please join us at the concert sponsorship level that is comfortable for you!

**Champion Sponsor:** $3,000 Presenting sponsor status for one night of a concert series Opportunity to emcee and welcome audience to the concert Logo or name on the concert banner, select Summer Free for All movie screen, season brochure and neighborhood flyer Listed as presenting sponsor in the season brochure and the neighborhood flyer Listed on the PP&R Summer Free for All website Recognized from the stage at all concerts Thanked in Concordia News and on the CNA Website and recognition in the SFFA final report Listed in the season brochure and the neighborhood flyer Listed on the PP&R Summer Free for All website Thanked in Concordia News and on the CNA Website and recognition in the SFFA final report

**Champion Combo Sponsor:** $3,000 + $2,000 Presenting sponsor status at one park for the standard rate, with a discount off the same sponsorship level at a second park All benefits of Champion sponsorship apply at both parks

**Major Sponsor:** $1,250 and up Logo or name on concert banner, one Summer Free for All movie screen, season brochure and neighborhood flyer Listed on the PP&R Summer Free for All website Recognized from the stage at all concerts Thanked in Concordia News and on CNA Website Name listed in the newspaper guide distributed in seven languages

**Contributing Sponsor:** $600 and up Name in bold on the concert banner Name in bold in the season brochure and on neighborhood flyer Listed on the PP&R Summer Free for All website Thanked in Concordia News and on the CNA Website

**Good Neighbor Sponsor:** $300 and up Name listed on the neighborhood flyer Listed on the PP&R Summer Free for All website Thanked in the Concordia News and on the CNA Website Any sponsor may have a promotional table at the concerts they are supporting.

Sponsorship commitments are needed by April 1 but payment is not due until May 15, 2015 to be included in promotional material. If you are a business, please let us know how you would like to participate as a sponsor by contacting Judith Yeckel, Concert Production Manager at 503-249-8159 or judith.yeckel@gmail.com. By paying by check, make checks payable to Portland Parks & Recreation/Fernhill Concerts and mail to Summer Concerts ATTN: Judith Yeckel, gmail.com. If paying by check, make checks payable to Portland Parks & Recreation/Fernhill Concerts and mail to Summer Concerts ATTN: Judith Yeckel, PPR: Mt. Tabor Yard, 6437 SE Division St., Portland, OR 97206. CREDIT CARDS ALSO ACCEPTED.

CNA Spring Clean-up: May 16th

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 16th @ 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

PCC Workforce Training Center, NE 42nd Ave. & Killingsworth

This is the biggest fundraising event for the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) and a great excuse to get rid of the junk and recyclables that you have been accumulating in your closets and garage!

We are always in need of VOLUNTEERS to plan event & help unload vehicles and direct traffic the day-of. If interested, please email Katie Ugolini at social@concordiapdx.org or call 503-449-9690.

Annual CNA Yard Sale: June 26-28

SAVE THE DATE: Start sorting out your unwanted items and plan to join in the Concordia Neighborhood Yard Sale! More details to follow in the April CNews. Questions: Please contact Donna Carrier at 503-288-9826 or donna.carrier58@gmail.com.

Sunday Parkways: Northeast

Explore the Northeast Neighborhood Friday afternoons while you make your way around the July route. Don't forget to stop by Woodlawn, Alberta and Fernhill Parks along with Rigler Elementary School where a collection of fun activities, festive music, and delicious food awaits you.

18th Annual Street Fair

** Alberta Street Fair**

The 18th Annual Alberta Street Fair is Saturday August 8, 2015. Alberta Main Street is currently seeking performers, sponsors and vendors for the event.

The Alberta Street Fair is a day-long celebration of community, art and music that brings over 25,000 people to Alberta Street. Hosted by Alberta Main Street, the street fair includes a three stages of entertainment and over 300 vendor spaces between NE 10th Ave and NE 30th Ave.

Call for Performers: Alberta Main Street seeks a diverse array of performers appropriate for a family friendly event. The non-profit seeks performers of all kinds: musicians, dancers, children's performers and other acts that appreciate and represent the cultural diversity of our neighborhood. Performers are invited to learn more and apply online: albertainmainst.org/whats-happening/street-fair /
call-performers/. All acts must perform original material or works that are clearly in the public domain. The application deadline is April 17, 2015.

Sponsorship Opportunities: The eclectic mix of entertainment and craft on the Alberta Street Fair epitomizes the Portland draw and is a fantastic opportunity for exposure for your business. By sponsoring Alberta Street Fair, you can: directly connect with an active and engaged audience, showcase products, bolster your brand by partnering with a respected event and support your consumer's community. albertainmainst.org/whats-happening/street-fair / sponsorship/

Vendor Registration: Local artists, crafters, makers, organizations and food vendors are invited to participate in this popular event. Vendor registration fees vary by the type of vendor and size of booth. More information and registration is now available online: albertainmainst. org/whats-happening/street-fair/vendors/. Register before June 14, 2015 for early bird pricing.

About Alberta Main Street: Alberta Main Street advances efforts to develop Alberta Street as a vibrant, creative, equitable, and sustainable commercial district serving residents and visitors to our community. For information about Alberta Main Street contact Sara Wittenberg at sara@albertamainst.org or visit albertainmainst.org.
~Kids & Schools~

Spring Break Swim

By Mark Ross, Portland Parks and Recreation

Dive into spring with Portland Parks & Recreation (PPAR)! We provide a variety of lessons and activities at six locations citywide. Swim lessons for spring 2015 are now open for both online and phone registration. Swim Lessons are available for all ages and skill levels. Group lessons, semi-private and private lessons are all offered. Online registration is fast, easy, secure and 24/7 at www.PortlandParks.org. We provide accommodations to individuals with disabilities/special needs. If you need an accommodation, please call Inclusion Services at (503) 823-6399 x777.

PPAR also offers Water Fitness classes, adult lap swim and Open Play swim sessions. Call your neighborhood pool for complete schedules.

Is there a party in your future? Pool parties are the perfect way to celebrate any special occasion, birthday party, group event or just a fun get-together. Rent a pool for that special gathering! Call your local PPAR pool for rates and reservations.

For a complete pool schedule, or further information regarding our lessons and programs, call the pool nearest you, or contact the Portland Parks & Recreation Swimming and Aquatics program at (503) 823-5130.

- Portland Parks & Recreation indoor pools:
  - Buckman Pool, 320 SE 16th (503) 823-3668
  - Columbus Pool, 7701 N. Chautauqua Blvd. (503) 823-3669
  - East Portland Pool 740 SE 106th (503) 823-3450
  - Matt Dishman Pool, 77 NE Knott St. (503) 823-3673

- Portland Parks & Recreation outdoor pools:
  - Matt Dishman Pool, 77 NE Knott St. (503) 823-3673
  - Portland Parks & Recreation indoor pools:
    - East Portland Pool 740 SE 106th (503) 823-3450
    - Matt Dishman Pool, 77 NE Knott St. (503) 823-3673

Vernon Auction 2015

Vernon Auction 2015
Saturday, April 25, 2015
The Melody Ballroom
Vernon’s Biggest Fundraiser of the Year!
Tickets may be purchased here on March 1st $35/person (includes dinner, wine & beer)
Funds raised at our auction go to benefit ALL Vernon students, supporting things like the music program, technology, field trips and so much more.
Lots more info to come so stay tuned! Please visit our Auction FAQ page for more info about the auction.
Visit the Vernon Auction Facebook group for the latest auction news:
www.facebook.com/groups/vernonauction

The 2015 Vernon Auction Committee needs help from our community!
We’re still looking for the following volunteers:
Procurement Helpers and Classroom Art Leads
The time commitment for these tasks is very minimal and they can be done mostly at your convenience. Please email our Auction Chair, Anna Held, if you can pitch in to make this the best Auction ever!
Contact Us: vernonauction@gmail.com

Last Year’s Auction
The 2014 Vernon School Auction brought in over $79,000 for our Music Program and our Outdoor Classroom!
Many thanks to all our donors, volunteers, and everyone who went to the auction. Your money was well spent!

Monologue Competition

August Wilson Monologue Competition

Local students take to the stage March 2 to compete to represent Portland in the national August Wilson Monologue Competition on Broadway.

- TV star Russell Hornsby from NBC’s Grimm will emcee the event.
- Portland high school students from across the city have been honing their Monologues and practicing their moves as they prepare to compete in the regional finals of the August Wilson Monologue Competition, to be held on Saturday, March 2 at Portland Center Stage, Gerding Theatre at the Armory, 128 NW 11th Ave. The event is free and open to the public.

Three students will be selected by a panel of judges to participate in the monologue finals on Broadway in late spring. Actor Russell Hornsby, who has been working behind the scenes with students on their performances, will emcee the event. Hornsby is known for his starring role in NBC’s Grimm, ABC Family’s Lincoln Heights and HBO’s In Treatment, among myriad other artistic achievements.

The monologue competition is a program of the August Wilson Red Door Project, a not-for-profit organization working to change the racial ecology of Portland through the arts.

Practicing for the competition has been a transformative experience for many students. They have received one-on-one coaching and have had the chance to work with professional actors on honing their performances. The students participating in the event are diverse as the performances themselves. Youth of color have an equal place center stage with other students. All are afforded the chance to participate, the chance to explore the arts, and the chance to excel.

This is a very dynamic Red Door Project Co-Founder and Artistic Director Kevin Jones sees needed in the effort to improve diversity and equity in Portland.

Jones likens the health of the city’s racial ecology to the needs of a functioning biological ecosystem such as a garden.

“You need flowers, rain and bees in a garden to have a strong ecosystem,” says Jones. “Every city is comprised of different cultures. We are working to bring the marginalized parts of the system into the mainstream. We are bringing youth of color back into the heart of the city at Portland Center Stage and are mixing it up to build a stronger and more vibrant community where all people are given an opportunity to thrive.”

African American boys – the group least likely to seek out theater experiences – were especially encouraged to try out for the competition. The Red Door recruited students in classroom workshops across the Portland metropolitan area. The workshops introduced the monologue competition opportunity and provided cultural context to the master playwright’s work.

“The workshops gave the kids an opportunity to actually put words in their mouths, to understand the influence of August Wilson and to relate to stories here in our ‘hood,” says Jones.

“We had the chance to break stereotypes by helping students understand that African American vernacular is the same as the vernacular of other groups. All cultures have something distinctive in the way they communicate,” says Jones.

Sixty students from more than 20 local schools auditioned at a preliminary round in January. On March 2, 19 students will perform on Portland Center Stage’s main stage.

Community members will have the opportunity to make a donation to the event to support next year’s August Wilson Monologue Competition. The Red Door Project wishes to thank the community for its support.

At a glance:
What: August Wilson Monologue Competition
When: 7-10 p.m. on March 2, Doors open at 6:30.
Where: Portland Center Stage, Gerding Theatre at the Armory, 128 NW 11th Ave.
Details: The event is FREE, but reservations are required. Please go to www.pcs.org/awrdp for tickets. Seats are not reserved.

St. Patty’s Day

Tuesday, March 17
PORTLAND’S adidas SHAMROCK RUN
Founded in 1979, the adidas Shamrock Run is the largest running and walking event in Oregon and is the second largest running event on the US west coast. In 2015, 35,000 participants will celebrate the 37th edition of the event on Sunday, March 15 at Waterfront Park in downtown Portland. Shamrock has reached its field limit, and has “sold out,” every year for the past five years.

Shamrock Weekend kicks-off with the adidas Shamrock Run Fitness Fair. This two-day expo at the Oregon Convention Center on March 13-14 is in conjunction with Shamrock participant bib number and T-shirt pickup. The Fitness Fair features more than 70 running and fitness exhibitors, live music, fitness demos, contests and give-aways and a Leprechaun Lane kids area. More than 20,000 people visit the Shamrock Fitness Fair.

2015 Portland 74th Annual
St. Patrick’s Day Festival
Tuesday March 17th 2015, 12:00pm – 8:00pm
The Ambridge Event Center, 376 NE Clackamas
Admission: $10.00 21 & above, $5.00 12-20 years old, FREE 11 & under

Kiss Me I’m Irish
Saturday, March 14, 8 pm (doors open 7pm)
Alberta Abbey, 126 NE Alberta
815 advance/$18 door, 21+ (young adults 17+ welcome if accompanied by parent or guardian).
Info: www.portlandstorytheater.com

Hosted by amazing puppeteer Penny Walter, storyteller with Maura Conlon, Lynne Duddy, and Lawrence Howard, singing and dancing with Brian O’Hart and Lins freesfree

Saint Patrick’s Day Celebration
Tuesday, March 17th, from 12 Noon to 9 pm
Kennedy School, free music, all ages

Music, roaming dancers, pipers, face painters, and balloon twistors; artists include Kathryn Claire Band, Brothers Dunne, Yeates Academy Irish Dancers, and Geraldine Murray’s Irish Family Hooley and Dancers in the Gynnasaum, The Lasses in the Courtyard Restaurant; and The River City Pipe Band roamin.

St. Paddy’s Day Sessions
Tuesday, March 17, 9:00pm 11:59pm
Alberta Street Pub
Settle in for a night of casual sessions from some of Portland’s best traditional Irish musicians, including the Pub’s own Django Amerson. No cover, no pressure, just a great way to spend your actual Paddy’s day. Grab some fish and chips and catch some world class music in your own back yard.

~Community~
Pet Classes
The Oregon Humane Society's Behavior Department offers an expanded range of classes and workshops to assist owners with their pet's behavioral issues. Upcoming classes are listed below. Contact the OHS Behavior Dept. at (503) 285-7722 x225, or visit our website at www.oregonhumane.org/training for more details.

PUPPY ROMPS:
Friday, March 6, 4:30 – 6 pm
March 21, 4:30 – 6 pm
Exposing your puppy to new dogs when he is young can help prevent behavioral problems as he matures. OHS trainers will be on hand to answer your questions about potty-training, play-biting and more. For puppies five months or younger.
Fee: Free (donations accepted) No need to RSVP.

SPORTS AND SHEENAGANS:
Tuesdays, March 17 – April 7, 7:30 – 8:30 pm
Bring your dog to this fun sampler class and try activities like Agility, Rally and Nosework. Learn new tricks and discover your dog's hidden talents!
Fee: $80 for four weeks of training
Register at www.oregonhumane.org/training

PROBLEM POOCH CLASS:
Saturday, March 21, 1 – 2 pm
This class is led by a Certified Professional Dog Trainer. It is for anyone who just entered pet parenthood, is considering adopting a new pet, or who is feeling frustrated with their four-legged friend.
Fee: Free (donations accepted)

SHY DOG WORKSHOP:
Saturday, March 28, 4:30 – 6 pm
This interactive workshop is for dog owners with introverted dogs. After learning more about fearful-based behavior, students will learn tips and tricks to help their shy dogs feel and act more confident.
Fee: $15 suggested donation. No need to RSVP.

BASIC AND PUPPY MANNERS:
Mondays, March 9 – April 13, 6:15 – 7:15 pm
In OHS's Manners classes, students learn how to teach their dogs the basics, like 'sit,' 'stay' and loose-lease walking. The classes use positive training techniques and real-life scenarios so the skills learned can be easily transferred into everyday life.
Fee: $155 for six weeks of training
Register at www.oregonhumane.org/training

PRIVATE TRAINING CONSULTATION:
Available by appointment
Are you having behavior problems with your four-legged friend? Schedule a one-on-one private training consultation at OHS with one of our certified professional dog trainers who can offer guidance and advice for dog and cat behavior problems.
Fee: $75 per consultation. (Shelter Dog Discount: 10% off for dogs from OHS and other local area shelters). Request an appointment at www.oregonhumane.org/training or call (503) 285-7722 x225.

OHS FREE HELP LINE & WEBSITE: Call the free Pet Behavior Helpline at (503) 416-2983 to get your behavior questions answered or visit the OHS Pet Care and Advice Web page at www.oregonhumane.org/training for training tips and pet behavior information. Celebrating 145 years of service to animals in this community, the Oregon Humane Society is dedicated to helping animals and people. Last year, more than 11,000 animals were adopted through the OHS and more than 1,000 reports of animal abuse and neglect were investigated. Visit us at www.oregonhumane.org.

Get back to Nature
Columbia Slough 101
Saturday March 14, 9:00am - 12:45pm
Ever wonder about that slow-moving channel of water running through Gresham, Fairview, and NE & N Portland? Learn about the history, recreation options, water, wildlife, and current issues of the Columbia Slough at Slough 101. Slough experts will lead hands-on activities including a tour of a pump station and macroinvertebrate discovery. Pre-registration is required for this free workshop, and light refreshments will be provided. Suitable for adults and teens 14 & up.

Stewardship Saturday: Wilkes Creek Headwaters
Saturday March 14, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Restoring headwater habitat, that is the habitat at the source of a river or stream, is an important part of the waterway restoration process. Wilkes Creek flows into the Columbia Slough, so its protection is part of a greater effort to keep the Slough healthy. Join the Council and Portland Parks and Recreation for a day of restoration. We'll maintain some of our native plantings and remove invasive species that threaten their health.

This event runs rain or shine! Be sure to dress for the weather and bring water, rain gear and sturdy shoes. Snacks, tools, training and gloves will be provided. This opportunity is open to volunteers 16 years and older, unless accompanied by an adult. Volunteers under 18 should contact the Council for a special youth waiver.

Stewardship Saturday: Peninsula Crossing Trail
Saturday March 21, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Help us continue our work along the Peninsula Crossing Trail! Over the last planting season the Council, local students and teams of volunteers have planted hundreds of native species along the trail, creating habitat for native birds, bugs and other Slough fauna - not to mention great sights for trail travelers! The maintenance and upkeep of these plantings is essential until the plants can fend for themselves. Lend a hand! Exact activities are yet to be determined, but we'll likely weed and spread mulch. Register below to receive details about the event as they become available.

This event runs rain or shine! Be sure to dress for the weather and bring water, rain gear and sturdy shoes. Snacks, tools, training and gloves will be provided. This opportunity is open to volunteers 16 years and older, unless accompanied by an adult. Volunteers under 18 should contact the Council for a special youth waiver.

This is a great group volunteering opportunity! The Columbia Slough Watershed Council is happy to help your company or organization schedule your next employee community service day. Contact us today for details!

Brunch with the Birds
Thursday April 09, 10:00am - 1:00pm
We’ll walk around the trails looking for birds before enjoying a delicious lunch from the Council. Space is limited to 20 people; suitable for adults and children 12 & up. Advance registration required. $5 suggested donation. Whitaker Ponds. 7040 NE 47th Ave.

Penny Beckwith, info@columbiaislough.org 503-281-1132, http://columbiaislough.org/
Music to your ears......

**Small Instrumental Ensemble Concert**
Friday, March 6, 2015, 7 – 8pm
Fine Arts Building: The Brass, Handbell and String ensembles will perform.

**Wind Ensemble Spring Concert**
Sunday, March 8, 2015, 3 – 4pm
Fine Arts Building: Concordia’s Wind Ensemble will perform.

**Choir Concert**
Sunday, March 15, 2015, 3 – 5pm
St. Michael’s Church, 6700 NE 29th Ave
Concordia University Concert Choir and The Oregon Sinfonietta Orchestra will perform A German Requiem by Johannes Brahms which will be conducted by Kurt Berentsen and Les Preludes by Franz Liszt which will be conducted by Dr. Donald Appert.

The concert will be held at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church next to the Concordia campus. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted. Seating for all services is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Spring Concert**
Sunday, April 12, 2015, 3 – 5pm
St. Michael’s Church 6700 NE 29th Ave
All ensembles will perform. The concert will be held at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church at 6700 NE 29th Ave next to the Concordia campus. Admission is free.

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**Concordia News**

**Do Re Mi**

**Mountain Writers Series: Line and Stanza - A Poetry Elements Workshop**
Saturday, March 21, 2015, 9:30am – 4:30pm
George R. White Library Room GRW108
2900 NE Liberty St. Portland, OR 97211

Register for the workshop at www.communityenergyproject.org or call 503.284.6827 x108

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**By Katie Kwawla**

Follow in the footsteps of a beloved children’s Author - Your kids may not be old enough yet to appreciate the silly antics of Ramona or the crazy adventures of Ritory, but it’s likely that these book characters hold a special place in your heart.

It just so happens that beloved children’s author, Beverly Cleary, was born and raised in Portland. She spent her childhood exploring her own Northeast Portland neighborhood, which later became the home to many of her book’s characters, including the adventures of Ramona and her friends. Embark on a scavenger hunt with your little adventurers to discover all the cool places that author Beverly Cleary immortalized in her work. It’s a great way to play tourist in your own town, and to find out more about this cherished author and her love for our fair city.

Your first stop on your tour should be Grant Park (at Northeast 33rd Avenue, Portland), where the Beverly Cleary Sculpture Garden for Children is located. The three sculptures – one of Ritory, who is playing in the water, one of Henry Huggins and one of Ramona. The Ramona and Ritory sculptures are also both water features, which are turned on during the warmer months for kids to splash and play in.

To find the sculptures at Grant Park, head into the park via the entrance on Northeast 33rd Avenue, between Knott Street and Broadway, then find the playground. The sculpture garden is just behind the playground, on the south side.

True Beverly Cleary fans will be quite familiar with the places that the author uses over and over again in her books – Klickitat Street, Tillamook Street and more. And, these actual streets exist in Portland!

Stop by the Hollywood Library (4040 Northeast Tillamook Street, Portland) to view the Beverly Cleary Neighborhood Map, and then set off into the surrounding blocks to find the home where Beverly Cleary lived as a child, Ramona’s house, Henry Huggins’ paper route and more.

Continue your Beverly Cleary exploring with a trip to the Gresham Library (385 Northwest Miller Avenue, Gresham, OR), located about 30 minutes away. This library is home to two special Terracotta Ramona Statues – one of a cheerful Ramona and one of an arms-crossed, pouting Ramona (as she was often found in her books) – each with a special passage to go along with it. While you’re here, do some hunting in the library to find the section with Beverly Cleary books and sit down with your kids and read a few chapters aloud or check one out to bring home!

Take some advice from Ramona who said it best, “She was not a slowpoke grownup. She was a girl who could not wait. Life was so interesting that she had to find out what happened next.”

Get out into Portland to do some Beverly Cleary exploring and find out what happens next!

One rainy Sunday when I was in the third grade, I picked up a book and looked at the pictures and discovered that even though I did not want to, I was reading. I have been a reader ever since. - Beverly Cleary

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**DIY Workshop**

This free limited time workshop teaches participants how to weatherize a flat attic. Topics covered include safety, air sealing, baffling, blown-in insulation, and incentives to help cover the cost of your project. Learn more and register for the workshop at www.communityenergyproject.org or call 503.284.6827 x108

Sat, March 7, 10am-1pm - (English & Spanish) Hacienda CDC 5136 NE 42nd Ave, Portland Wed, March 18, 6-8:30pm - Peninsula Park Community Center 700 N Rosa Parks Way, Portland

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**Winter Planting has rewards**

By Handmade Gardens, 4446 NE Going St.

Thinking of adding fruit trees or native shrubs to your landscape this year? It’s time. We can plant from October through April, but March is also when availability is the best: out from mail order sources, and the end of the month from retail nurseries. With all this warm weather, don’t wait too long. Blueberries are already starting to wake up for spring.

To fill your garden with birds and butterflies, choose species that support our native birds and pollinators. Our Soil and Water Conservation District offers information on some popular Northwest native plants. Their annual plant sale still has a few plants available.

Do you want food for your family? What fruits will you eat the most of? How many trees do you have space for? Remember that crowded trees will often fail to thrive or provide. We like Raintree Nursery for both variety descriptions and high-quality mail-order fruit trees.

In the vegetable garden, we’re happy to report that our January plantings are doing well. The radishes and lettuce we seeded in beds are all up, and the kale transplants are thriving (with slug protection). Peas are not up yet but they usually take a bit longer. In the pots, we’ve got new lettuce, broccoli, kale, radicchio and lacy endive. You can also seed mustards, arugula, mizuna, and other gourmet salad greens at this time.

Every Northwest garden should have a patch of miner’s lettuce. There are several native species, all in the genus Claytonia (also called Montia). It’s easy to propagate, easy to naturalize, and most importantly easy to eat in a winter salad. You may already have some - look around!

Seeds of miner’s lettuce are available from many nurseries. Seed any time in the cool season. Seed planted this time of year, late winter, may give you a small crop for this spring and a larger one for next year. You can also transplant a clump from an established patch.

In April it transforms from crop to flower, the sweet rose-pink blooms held on delicate stems. When harvesting wild greens, in your garden or in the woods, save yourself some work in the kitchen by picking them clean. Take a bowl and sharp scissors to the garden. Cut the leaves a bit above the ground, leaving the dirt behind. Miner’s lettuce thrives in shade or sun, and can form a “lawn” under trees and shrubs that does not compete with tree roots as grass would. It works as an understory to many landscape plants.

Violets, both native and naturalized, brighten the winter garden and your early spring salads. They are perennial and easy to propagate by transplanting. The leaves are edible as well.

**Concordia U Helps Tax Prep**

This is a free service provided by the Accounting Department at Concordia University. The Chair of the Chair of the Accounting Department will monitor trained accounting students in tax law and the electronically file returns for interested community members. They will be available from 9 am until noon on Saturdays from 9am until noon on Saturdays in March.

Feb 28, Mar 7, 14 & April 11 from 9am to Noon
George R. White Library & Learning Center Room 120

If anyone is interested, please email us at: ConcordiaTaxPrep@cu-portland.edu
The Beauty of Simplicity

By Aimee Brown

Most of us are familiar with the old adage “stop and smell the roses”. Well, I’m starting to realize what is really meant by this.

Spending much of my adult life buzzing from one commitment to another, not only did I not have time to smell a rose but I heaped undue stress and expectation upon myself. I filled my calendar with many things that I now see, in retrospect, distracted me from the most important aspects of my life: noticing the beauty that is all around and keeping space and time available for relationships.

Most recently I’ve reduced my life the bare minimum – the “must do’s” if you may. I have found myself too tired for much else but it’s been a blessing in disguise. This exhaustion has come along with my lack of fulfillment by trying to do everything I think I should be doing, to be successful in another’s eyes and never stopping and assessing what I wanted and needed, what was right for me.

By slowing down I’m actually learning to enjoy my life. I’m thankful for my mere obligations. When I’m tempted to add things I have to tell myself no, and leave it be in this season of rest and simplicity.

As I slow down, I find I have time to engage with those I encounter during my day. Whether a grocery store clerk or a customer at work, I stop to look them in the eye, and genuinely ask “how are you today?” These moments are the most important part of my day. By giving a stranger, an acquaintance, or even my dearest friend the time they are worthy of, brings value and dignity, and I believe, healing to both of our souls. I will never regret devoting a few moments of my time to connect with the heart and mind of another. We are all created with an innate need to love and be loved; it’s reciprocal, the cycle creates more love the more we do it. It can be easy to think we don’t need it as much as we do, to minimize or deny its power but it is of the highest importance. We are presented everyday with opportunities to grow and connect, to heal and be a conduit of healing. We never know what someone is facing in their life and by being present we have the chance to meet someone where they’re at and offer an encouraging word, an acknowledgment of their situation or just a tender smile.

Through simplicity and creating space, my life is now more peaceful. I’m eternally grateful for this season and the healing it is bringing into my life. As I slow down, I find I have time to engage with those I encounter during my day. Whether a grocery store clerk or a customer at work, I stop to look them in the eye, and genuinely ask “how are you today?” These moments are the most important part of my day. By giving a stranger, an acquaintance, or even my dearest friend the time they are worthy of, brings value and dignity, and I believe, healing to both of our souls. I will never regret devoting a few moments of my time to connect with the heart and mind of another. We are all created with an innate need to love and be loved; it’s reciprocal, the cycle creates more love the more we do it. It can be easy to think we don’t need it as much as we do, to minimize or deny its power but it is of the highest importance. We are presented everyday with opportunities to grow and connect, to heal and be a conduit of healing. We never know what someone is facing in their life and by being present we have the chance to meet someone where they’re at and offer an encouraging word, an acknowledgment of their situation or just a tender smile.

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10 Healthy Weight Loss Tips

Eat small frequent meals – balance blood sugar and stimulate metabolism

Eat half of everything you order – reduce calories and don’t gorge yourself

Cook real food and eat with friends – celebrate the bounty the earth provides with people you love – eliminate processed food

Use a blender – a smoothie with a high quality protein powder serves as a great meal replacement – load it with veggies!

Rainbow on a plate – 5-9 veggies/day – accessorize with protein, fat and grains

Protein and fat with every meal – high quality (clean meat) and totally satisfying

WATER – Essential for normal cell function

Move your body – everyday! – for fun!

Manage your stress with positive loving relationships – stress reduction equals better metabolism and less fat storage. Most people loose weight when they fall in love so all in love every day!

Change up your exercise routine every 12 weeks – the body is a master of adaptation and will naturally take the path of least resistance to conserve energy – it’s a survival mechanism. Therefore you need to be tricking it in to overdrive metabolism and less fat storage. Most people lose relationships – stress reduction equals better life and remember: the value of the person in front of you, or even my dearest friend the time they are worthy of my day. By giving a stranger, an acquaintance, or even my dearest friend the time they are worthy of, brings value and dignity, and I believe, healing to both of our souls. I will never regret devoting a few moments of my time to connect with the heart and mind of another. We are all created with an innate need to love and be loved; it’s reciprocal, the cycle creates more love the more we do it. It can be easy to think we don’t need it as much as we do, to minimize or deny its power but it is of the highest importance. We are presented everyday with opportunities to grow and connect, to heal and be a conduit of healing. We never know what someone is facing in their life and by being present we have the chance to meet someone where they’re at and offer an encouraging word, an acknowledgment of their situation or just a tender smile.

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 Neighborhood Events

**Alberta Rose Theatre**

Alberta Street Gallery

Feb. 26 - March 25
Christopher St. Johns: "The Old Ways"
I have always felt that painting offers a doorway into a slowly and archaic world. Paintings seem old fashioned and overshadowed by the technologically obsessed world we make our way in... These paintings embrace the crudeness of our emotional life... They thirst for something quiet and embrace form as a gateway to the disinterested. This work is completely against the notion of spectacle, because in most respects, the old ways are our future.

2734 NE Alberta Street | 503-280-6329
sixdayartgallery.net

Guarding Gallery

February 26-March 24

- - Arielle Adkin has created a series of "Flowers" in colored pencil and gouache on paper, both light materials, in order to emphasize the delicate quality of these flowers. Her work reveals Nature’s ability to evolve in a modern man-made world, with an emphasis on creating a beautiful and palatable aesthetic.
- - Anne Goodrich's title for her ceramic work is "Leav". Her inspiration is the act of letting go. This concept is true for the tree as well, letting go of leaves enables the tree to store energy, survive the winter and apply that energy toward new growth when spring comes.

FEATURE AREA

- - Lisa Bluedoe is a mixed media artist who marries painting, collage and assemblage together to create complex paintings. Lisa creates each painting by intuitively experimenting with combinations of color and placement of collage and assemblage elements.
- - Shelly Caldwell creates mixed media sculpture using assemblage, painting, modeling. She has given the title of "Redemption, Passage & Escape". As she describes her process, "I am attempting to evoke very disparate objects into playing nicely together."

2929 Alberta Street | 503-281-9048
www.guardinggallery.com

**Portland Opera presents The Great American Songbook Songs of Love**

3rd ANNUAL HAWAIIAN SLACK KEY GUITAR FESTIVAL

The Stevens Hess Band

Second Season presents Flour, Salt & Moonbeams

AFTON PRESENTS: Local Music Showcase

PORTLAND OPERA with Ellis Paul

WILLY PORTER

Music Together Teachers

ALTAN + LIZ CARROLL

TAYLOR JOHN WILLIAMS

SOUTHERN TROUBADOURS IN THE ROUND

UNSUNG WOMEN

WOMEN WITH THE BLUES

HUNGRY OPERA MACHINE PRESENTS

3000 NE Alberta

**Concordia News**

March 2015

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1. HELLO EVERYBODY MUSIC TEACHER TOGETHER CONCERT AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
2. WILLY PORTER WITH ELLIS PAUL
3. PORTLAND OPERA PRESENTS THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK SONGS OF LOVE
4. ALAN DOYLE SO LET'S GO TOUR
5. 2ND ANNUAL HAWAIIAN SLACK KEY GUITAR FESTIVAL
6. TRACE BUNDY
7. BACK FENCE PDX: MAINSTAGE
8. SECOND SEASON PRESENTS TERRY ROBE
9. THE IVIE-MEZIERE-FOSS TRIO
10. THE STEVENS HESS BAND
11. MARTYN JOSEPH KRAIS DELMHORST
12. IGNITE TAO! V6
13. FARMNOMICS PRESENTS MR. OONG-KAH AT 75
14. ANNALISA TORNETFALD ALBUM RELEASE WITH THE SOUND OUTSIDE SPECIAL GUEST MOLLY MIREL
15. SOUTHERN TROUBADOURS IN THE ROUND JOE ELY, KITHE FOSTER – PAUL THORN
16. AFTR PRESENTS: LOCAL MUSIC SHOWCASE
17. TAYLOR WILLIAMS
18. WOMEN WITH THE BLUES ANNE WEISS, MARY FLOWER, & LARIONDA STEEL
19. ALTAN - LIZ CARROLL
20. PORTLAND OPERA PRESENTS THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK UNSUNG WOMEN
21. DIVAVILLE FAREWELL CONCERT
22. JOHNNY A. + BOB MALONE
23. HUNGRY OPERA MACHINE PRESENTS FLOUR, SALT & MOONBEAMS

**Great Food**

**Music**

**Beer & Wine**

**MARCH 2015**

**Hello Everybody Music Teachers Together Concert and Scholarship Fundraiser**

March 2nd, 7:30 pm
Concordia University

**Willy Porter with Ellis Paul**

March 6th, 7:30 pm
McMenamins

**Portland Opera Presents The Great American Songbook Songs of Love**

March 6th, 7:30 pm
Oak Street Theater

**2nd Annual Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival**

March 6th

**Trace Bundy**

March 7th

**Back Fence PDX: Mainstage**

March 7th

**Second Season Presents Terry Robe**

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**The Ivie-Meziere-Foss Trio**

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March 9th

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March 9th

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March 9th

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March 9th

**Kenny's Gala**

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March 9th – March 15th

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**Submit events to concordianews@yahoo.com**