

ROCKY BUTTE TIMES

VOLUME 4, WINTER 2016

LOCAL HISTORY AND COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

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The Angels Among Us

By Adele Kubein

As an anthropologist I usually write about the New Portlanders, who are the immigrants and refugees that trickle into our city, bringing new foods, cultures, and exotic attractions to Portland's East Side, but today I am writing about a place in our area, a place where angels live. Many of us consider 82nd Avenue to be the least attractive area of East Portland. Car lots, homeless people, dirty traffic, drug use, and crime on 82nd are what we notice. But in the middle of the chaos, there is a place where the light shines all the time.

You may not notice the worn building at first. It is on 82nd and Pine, on the west side of the street by Hong Phat and the car detail shop. It looks beat up, in places the windows are held together with duct tape, and the plumbing is old, but the Episcopal church of Sts. Peter and Paul is the seat of Glory. I am not particularly religious, but I found myself going back to volunteer over and over.

Every Friday night, no matter if it is a holiday, in all weather, a group of women who have named themselves Rahab's Sisters, gather at the church. (You can go to: www.rahabs-sisters.org/ to find out more about them). One group cooks a full meal for at least 65 women; there is salad, dessert, bread, coffee and tea, and a main course while other women prepare to serve the guests. This is no ordinary soup kitchen. The volunteers put out tablecloths, candles, and flowers when they have them. Outside is a security guard who keeps males off of the premises during dinner, to assure the guests that they will be safe while they are there. All except for the



security guard are volunteers who cook and serve, but also write grants, shop for personal hygiene items, and participate in every manner of fundraiser you can imagine. As the guests eat, they fill out requests for personal items and sometimes they write their hopes, fears and prayers in a book provided for them. I went through ten years of comments and prayers to find some quotes, and I cried the whole time. One of the rules of Rahab's is that no one is forced to 'pray for their meal' there is no proselytization; no one is forced to participate in religious acts, but the door is always open.

The guests are not always easy to be around. In this era of Back Page and Craig's List young prostitutes never come out onto the street, almost the only women who come in are older, homeless, and addicted. One of the guests characterized herself and her peers as: "The garbage of society

who nobody wants". But they want to contribute, and they always ask if they can. One night a tiny, skinny, dirty woman came in with a package of cherry tomatoes cradled in her soiled hands. She had obtained them at a grocery store's dumpster, coffee grounds and dirt were on the container, but all she wanted to do was contribute to the meal. Being a part of the Rahab's community was the important thing to her, she wanted to clean and help serve in return for her meal, and she wanted to be a useful part of some type of society rather than an outcast of 82nd Street. These women are not unaware of their condition and the view of society toward them. It renders them hopeless. For a few hours every Friday evening they will be treated as human beings.

Sts. Peter and Paul also has a Saturday morning meal that is open to all people. It is called Brigid's Table, and their volunteers provide the same care for their guests as Rahab's Sisters does. Our community is made up of varied constituent parts, whether we recognize them or not. The volunteers at Sts. Peter and Paul's have big arms and open hearts, they accept and recognize that we may not see or care to be around all of our residents, but they are our residents and the best way to improve our community is by spreading love and respect through our actions. Hope to see you there. AK



Build Community While Growing Food By Wes Hilton

The Beech Street Community Garden is a cooperative effort powered by your neighbors. Many of our volunteers live within a stone's throw of our location at NE Beech Street & 87th Ave. Our garden is the largest in the Urban Farm Collective, a network of community gardens around Portland.

Unlike many community gardens, we don't offer individuals separate, reserved garden spaces. Instead, volunteers work together on tasks across the entire garden-planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting-and share produce based on hours volunteered. The Urban Farm Collective enables us to meet with other gardens to share and redeem the food we've grown.

What's happening at the garden?

If you're familiar with the garden, you may have noticed a new structure near the back of the lot. Two amazing volunteers, April and P.C., transported this donated greenhouse to the garden and led efforts to rebuild it on site. Come spring, our new greenhouse will hold starter plants for garden crops.

Over the winter, we are growing "green manure" crops such as fava beans to replenish the soil. Our garden manager, Ben, has been coordinating collection



of leaves and other organic material to add to our compost pile as we look toward spring.

Get involved!

If you'd like to get to know the garden and meet your neighbors, we have garden tours scheduled at 11am on February 27, March 26, and April 23. If you're interested in getting your hands dirty, feel free to stick around for work parties on the same days from 10am to 1pm.

Volunteering at the garden can take as much or as little time as you want. Come to a work party and garden with your neighbors, or come on your own and spend an hour tending the plants while your kids enjoy nature. If you would like to visit the garden, stop by to take a look for yourself. For more information, or to arrange a tour of the garden, email BeechStreetGarden@gmail.com.

Planting Zen Continues to Grow By Jeff Stookey

It wasn't that long ago that NE Siskiyou Street was a single-lane road with a chain-link fence around a neglected piece of land. Now there is a beautiful two-lane street with a sidewalk and trees and street lights. The fall fundraising efforts were successful and Dharma Rain has made major progress on the interior of the meditation hall. The building now is 80% finished, and is just needing a kitchen, interior trim and detail work, and the remainder of the deck.



In the coming months, a workshop and greenhouse building that will support the community garden will go in at the end of the driveway. Hopefully by summer, we will begin work at the northeast corner of the property, along Siskiyou Street, which is the future home of a cohousing apartment complex.

During the entire month of May, the meditation hall will be open for visitors from 5:30am to 9:30pm. This is to celebrate our finishing this phase of work, and give the broader community a chance to check it out. Please come by - no experience necessary! There will be open meditation available all day, and a wide variety of special classes and workshops in the evenings. Schedules will be posted and available online as we get closer.

In addition, there are tours every third Saturday from 1-2pm and volunteer work parties every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm (or any part of that) and lunch is provided.



Locally Owned & Managed Business Listings

Photography

Josh Ross, Josh Ross Creative
joshrosscreative.com

Health & Wellness

Amy Kay, Whole You LLC
wholeyoullc.com

Victor Barreda Pazos, Aqua for Life, Watsu
aqua4lifepdx.blogspot.com/

Food & Drink

Mike Thierfelder, Wood Box Cider
woodboxcider.com

Travel

Sandi Carter, My Bucket List Adventures
mybucketlistadventures.com

CPR & First Aid Training

Laurel Schaffer R.N.
503-544-1116

Web Development

Mike Thierfelder, Animal Field
animalfield.com

Home Products

Donna Nelson, Scentsy Consultant
donnaelson.scentsy.us

Writing & Career Services

Dawn Rasmussen, Pathfinder Writing and Career Services, pathfindercareers.com/

Musicians

Halley Weaver, Folk Harpist
pdxharpist.com/

Carvings, engravings & sculptures

Andrew & Sarah Lonquist
olanderearthworks.com
Clay Braven, sculptures and carvings
etsy.com/shop/Claybraven

Rosie, The Harbor Dog

By Obi Wandugu

Rosie came to The Harbor, located at NE 103rd & Wygant, to bless our facility on April 29, 2014. It was at dinnertime, during the community life meeting, that The Harbor director surprised everyone by unleashing Rosie the Labradoodle, literally, on the men. What an exciting day that was. No one wanted to leave for their classes, which were about to start in a few minutes.

The men had heard of the previous dog, and lobbied, cajoled, and softly pushed for another one. I can still hear Xavier's voice asking Dallas the director when 'Our' dog was going to arrive. He is a big man, this Xavier, with a gentle and charitable heart; to see him ask for a dog was very surprising.

Rosie is 12 years old in dog years, and has been with us now for 17 months. She is spunky, with lots of personality; for the most part scaring the skittles off people when she meets them for the first time by barking and charging towards them like an ivory-colored wolf. After the first scare, she apologizes, and is then very protective, yet snuggly and playful.

Rosie is queen of her realm, (The Harbor) very self-assured, and sometimes a brat. If you dare look at Rosie 'wrong' you are surely going to be in trouble. She let Randy know, at the time of this interview, that he was on her seat. After she reclaimed her spot and was curled up snuggly and comfy, she thanked Randy for not doing it again. How she is able to do this is a story for another day.

Rosie gravitates towards people who like to play. People who can throw! She runs right to you when you



whistle. She understands the men. There is a resident whom she listens to, who is humbly quiet, and likes his space most of the time. More so at the beginning of his time here, but now through the help of the program, he has become more outgoing and talkative with the other men. Another man who smells like meat is also one of her favorites for reasons that are now obvious. With one of our staff members whose name is Ryan, Rosie has a peculiar love/hate relationship because they are constantly on the watch for each other; Rosie so she can run off with Ryan's socks, and Ryan so that he can stop Rosie from stealing his socks. At press time the count was five half pair of Ryan's 'military issued' socks. (Ryan is a veteran.)

Woe unto you, if you try taking Rosie for a walk, unless you are Steve. Steve is Rosie's best friend ever! He is also part of the service team at the harbor who volunteered to be her roommate and accountability partner when her other people finished the program and went out. Steve loves Rosie and Rosie adores Steve. Steve is the best whistler I have ever known. It would feel weird, Steve says, to not have a dog at The Harbor. Code for "I love Rosie very much". The two are inseparable. When Stevie, as

we lovingly call him here, goes out on an errand, you immediately know of his absence by the way Rosie ceases to be active. She hunches on her hind legs and puts her wet nose on the door glass looking out, waiting.

The Harbor is run by the Portland Rescue Mission as part of their New Life men's recovery ministry. It takes in men with addiction challenges, and ministers to them. They learn the healing power of a belief in Jesus Christ, and other life skills. This leads them to possess important inner tools, and the spiritual strength and foundation to live a life free of addiction. The program lasts 12 months. The facility can hold a maximum of 40 men at a time. At the end of the 12 months, the graduate can sign up to do Service work for The Harbor or the Portland Rescue Mission for another year, or choose to go into transition at the facility for 6 more months. Opportunities are then plentiful for one as an alumnus to volunteer or support the ministry afterwards. The writer of this article is a graduate of The Harbor program and is in service to the men's new life ministry for another year. The grace of our Lord is alive. Amen.

Park Forest Community Game Nights

Neighbors from the Rocky Butte area are setting aside time to visit and have a game night with the residents of Park Forest Care Center at 6pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Park Forest is a strong community partner, they own the vacant lot at 86th & Beech, which has become the Beech Street Community Garden.

Are you interested in joining other neighbors and community members on game night? You can find out more by emailing rockybuttetimes@gmail.com or calling 503-260-9238 to request the required background check application. The care center is located at 8643 NE Beech Street.



Adele Kubein *By Sierra Mullins*

The Portland area is a melting pot of races, cultures, and nationalities. It is a gateway city, meaning that many different types of communities have been formed within its boundaries. However, unmistakable division also comes with the territory in this type of city. It would be easy for many to simply ignore this divide. But thankfully there are those who feel a burden to inspire unity and recognition for what each person can bring to an area like Portland.

Adele Kubein was born the daughter of an Arab immigrant and dropped out of traditional school in 7th grade. However, these facts, which many assume would make her chances of success more difficult, weren't what defined Adele and any disadvantage was thrown out by all that she went on to accomplish.

Adele worked as a restaurant manager for a time, but recognizing her passion for gardening and the outdoors, she took up a landscaping business for thirty years during which time she put her daughter through five years of college. Though her own career thrived, Adele always intended to go back to school and earn her PhD once she was finished paying her daughter's tuition. Like a good student, Adele did her homework before beginning her journey on a new career path. She chose to pursue anthropology and sociology at LVTC Community college when her time came, and through careful planning and the mentorship of her professors, was roaring on her way toward her long time goals.

The amount of work that inherently came with going back to school would have caused many to turn away without ever attempting it didn't frighten Adele for a moment. She took her classes and then went straight to landscaping

and mowing lawns after school. Keeping up the business took up every spare moment, and her weekends, but Adele still maintained a 4.0 average. As if this wasn't enough of a feat, during this time she also traveled to give anti-war talks as she pursued the promotion of peace.

Having been a recipient of a measure of the same prejudice her father experienced at the hands of Western civilization due to his Arab background (especially after the attack on 9/11), it's little wonder that much of Adele's community work encompassed recognizing all that immigrants have to offer the state. Once she was a couple of years into her degree, nearly every one of Adele's projects was hands on. She became an integral part of a number of communities, namely Cambodian, Somalian, and Bosnian groups in the Rocky Butte area. While doing her dissertation, it became abundantly clear what a work of heart this calling truly was. Adele became such a part of each community that she ended up attending both weddings and funerals for those she has worked closely with, and has had families from these neighborhoods over to her house for holiday dinners. The work she accomplished through the use of her education became far more than a job. It became personal, a way to connect with people on a deeper level.

Though Adele supports peace and hosts anti-war talks, she encourages the use of debate in the classroom setting. As an instructor, rather than considering a difference in opinion wrong, she uses it as a springboard for delving deeper into the issue and gaining new insight. She admits she's a "pushy" instructor, always striving to instill in her students that the terrible things happening in the world do not need to be; peace can be found. She works hard to become the kind of teacher that changes her student's lives, because she knows from personal experience that this is entirely possible.

She didn't choose a job that would make her rich. Adele Kubein made her indelible mark on this world through the interpersonal aspects of her work and not by accruing worldly possessions with a large salary. Even after she was diagnosed with stage four cancer, Adele hasn't given up on her God-given purpose for one moment. She continues to strive full force as she has her entire life.

The impression she has made on the communities of the Rocky Butte area and in the lives of her students is undeniable, as it has brought many people closer together. She's taught them to learn from one another, and realize that everyone has something to contribute. She has shed light on how much we have to gain by embracing what each person brings to this world.

Join Your Neighbors on Nextdoor.com!

Do you have a kitchen table to sell, an over-abundance of garden produce to share or maybe you're looking for some free pavers? Join your neighbors on Nextdoor.com! People from your area (and beyond) are connecting online to share all kinds of information, ideas and items relating to your neighborhood. Sign up online using this invitation link and see what your neighbors are up to! <http://nextdoor.com/!YKEWR7>



Trails and Hikes Around Rocky Butte - Part 2: Summit Loop

By Brad Rasmussen

Part 1 of our 3-part series consisted of a route around Rocky Butte featuring the Rocky Butte North Loop, which contains the trails and streets along the north slope of Rocky Butte.

In Part 2, the Rocky Butte Summit Loop, we will explore the route which takes you up and over the top. (Note: This route can be combined with part or all of the other routes.)

So let's get started! Mileage-wise, the Rocky Butte Summit Loop is 2.7 miles round trip, with an overall elevation gain of 480 feet.

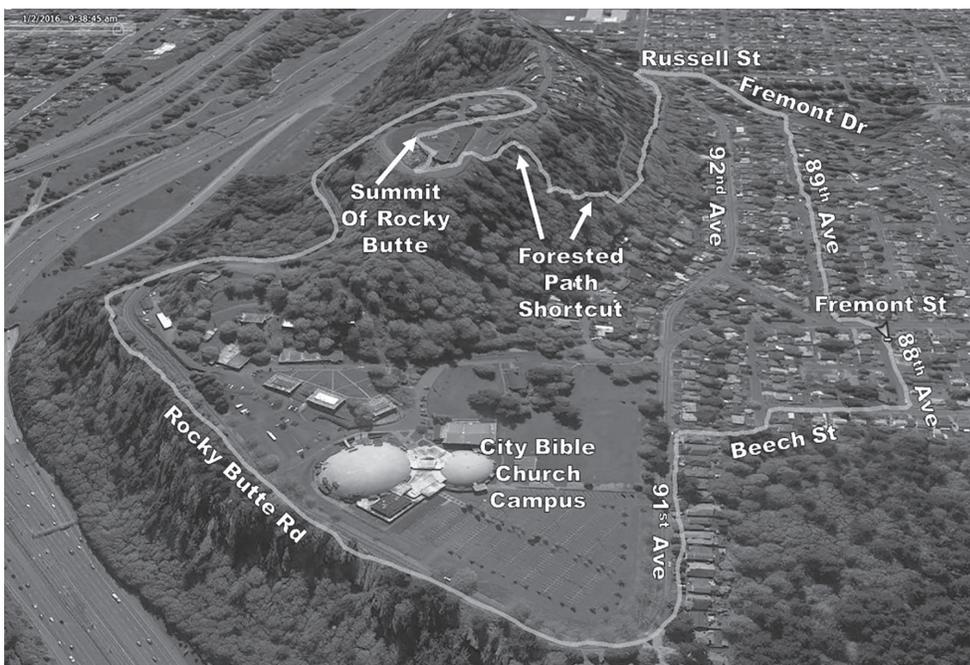
While this loop can be started from many locations on the route, the suggested starting point is at the parking strip on Rocky Butte Road, just outside the NE side of the City Bible Church campus. This location is best as it provides easy parking.

Begin by walking uphill in a SE direction on the right shoulder of Rocky Butte Road. Very shortly, on the right, you will pass the start of a stone retaining wall. Just across the road (on the left) is another stone retaining wall. Cross the road to the wall to where a path leads through some grass and trees. Watch out for poison oak along this path!

Soon the trail leads to a gated gravel road. Pass around the gate to what looks like a small city park. This is actually Portland Water Bureau land for Rocky Butte Facility #1. This little side jaunt allows you to be off Rocky Butte Road for a short stretch.

Get back on Rocky Butte Road and continue walking uphill, staying on the left shoulder. The road curves left, then right, before coming to a large T intersection. Rocky Butte Road circles around Joseph Wood Hill Park and the stonework structure at the very top of Rocky Butte.

Head across the intersection to a gated fence and a gravel road. Walk up the gravel road to the summit of Rocky Butte. Many paths crisscross the summit, allowing for great views from all sides. Views include downtown Portland, the Columbia River, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Hood. A mountain



identifier plaque at the north end of the summit points out many geographical locations that can be seen.

After enjoying the views, walk down the stairs at the north end, then turn left on Rocky Butte Road. After 50 feet, Rocky Butte Road turns downhill to the right. However, don't follow the road downhill.

Immediately before the road turns to the right is a path that follows some stairs at the base of the stonework that supports the road. Follow this path along the entire length of the stonework until you see the path continue downhill to the right.

Along this stretch of forested path, keep an eye out for birdhouses on the trees, and for trillium flowers in spring. This path is a shortcut, cutting out a section of having to walk on Rocky Butte Road. The path ends where it meets Rocky Butte Road. Hop down three feet to the sidewalk, then continue through the tunnel.

Follow Rocky Butte Road until it ends, where it intersects with 92nd Avenue and Russell Street. The shortest route back to the start is to take 92nd, but that is a busy street with no sidewalk or shoulder. Instead, walk west on Russell for 50 feet, then turn right on Fremont Drive.

After 100 yards of walking on Fremont Drive, turn right on 89th Avenue. Follow 89th until it intersects with Fremont Street (not to be confused with

Fremont Drive) and Benjamin Street. Turning right on Fremont Street to get back to the start would be shorter, but it would include a stretch of busy road with no sidewalk or shoulder. Instead, turn left on Fremont Street for 50 feet, then cross the street to head north on 88th Avenue.

Where 88th meets Beech Street, turn right, walking for 100 feet before turning left on 90th Avenue. Where 90th ends, to the right is an alley, which is a continuing segment of Beech Street. The alley ends at a junction with 91st Avenue. Turn left on 91st, following the road until it curves right, becoming Rocky Butte Road.

From here, it's a short trip back to the starting point. Proclaim your triumph at concluding the Rocky Butte Summit Loop!

Next up: Rocky Butte East.

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Milepost 5/Art Haus

By Christina Carnoy

On the corner of 82nd and Oregon Street, across from Montavilla Park, sits a beautiful old brick building. Many years ago, when I was a teenager, this building was occupied by the Baptist Manor Nursing Home. For a short time in my early teens, I volunteered there, reading books to the elderly residents, partially out of the goodness of my heart and partially to pad future college applications. Ah, sweet memories...

In the fall of 2011 my husband and I moved back to Portland and bought my grandparent's house, three blocks from where I grew up. As I reacquainted myself with the neighborhood, I noticed that something new had moved into the old Baptist Manor Nursing Home. Something intriguing. Something exciting. It was called "Milepost 5" and, upon closer examination, it appeared to be an artist's community. This was incredibly interesting to my husband and I, as we are both passionate artists and it's located a mere mile and a half from our home. But what is an "artist's community" anyway?

Milepost 5 was founded in 2008 as a "Community for Creatives", modelled after other similar types of communities that have successfully been launched across the USA. The concept is a sort of live/work space for artists, but still accessible for those who fall into the low-income tax bracket. Ever heard of starving artists? There's a reason this stereotype exists.



There are a few different housing options available at Milepost 5. There are condominiums, called the Lofts, for reasonably-priced purchase (although none are currently for sale). The Studios, live/work studio apartments, have shared kitchens and bathrooms for rent at very reasonable prices, especially considering Portland's cur-

rent rental housing crisis. And finally, there are work studios available, for those who wish to remain living off campus, yet come to work and participate in this creative community. Currently there are about 150 people who live and/or work at Milepost 5.

In 2012, some of the long-time residents joined together to form a nonprofit, "Art Haus", to oversee the arts programming at the site. This was a necessary step to help the project continue to evolve to meet the needs of a dynamic arts center, with an important added emphasis on expanding to involve the surrounding community in "Community Uplift Through the Arts". As I sat down with three long-time residents, James, Duane, and Mercedes, each of whom has assumed a leadership role in the Art Haus Nonprofit, I learned that these talented individuals, as well as many other residents like them, are incredibly passionate and committed to "creating an arts center for the benefit of East Portland artists and art lovers... a self-sustaining institution that will outlast us all". There are several successful ventures that have since been born out of Art Haus: the Coffeeshop, Theater, and Galleries.

The Art Haus coffee shop started in January of 2015 as a coffee stand right inside the doorway of its current entrance. Run entirely by volunteers, these days it has blossomed into a charming destination that definitely has a lot of unique gifts to offer the surrounding community. The menu offers locally roasted, organic, fair trade coffee; vegan pastries also made locally in small batches; and HausMade Cold Brew Coffee, Chai, and Iced Tea, among other delicacies. There are art play stations set up for patrons, where anyone who wishes may try their hand at sketching, drawing, or just playing with various materials and mediums. I personally found this feature quite delightful. Inviting, comfy couches are conveniently situated next to two enormous, impressively stocked bookshelves, seemingly full of equal parts art-related reference books and contemporary novels of every genre. Mellow music quietly plays in the background, and the space is beautifully adorned with a gallery of stunning mod-

ern abstract paintings. Having heard quite a few of my neighbors, including myself on many occasions, complain about the lack of a neighborhood coffee shop, I can honestly report I was absolutely thrilled to discover this little gem so conveniently close to home. I plan to begin frequenting the Art Haus Coffee shop at every possible opportunity. They are open seven days a week, from 7am-7pm.

On Art Haus's website, arthauspdx.org, the Theater is described as follows: "Once the chapel for Baptist Manor, our 120 seat theater is open for community events of all types. We organize our own theater, music, and literary events here, but it also available to rent for community theater, acoustic bands, speakers, weddings, and other kinds of community needs. It has excellent acoustics and is a warm, intimate space."

There are also three rotating Art Galleries, featuring the art of both residents and community members, all of whom are invited to apply for a possible installation of their art.

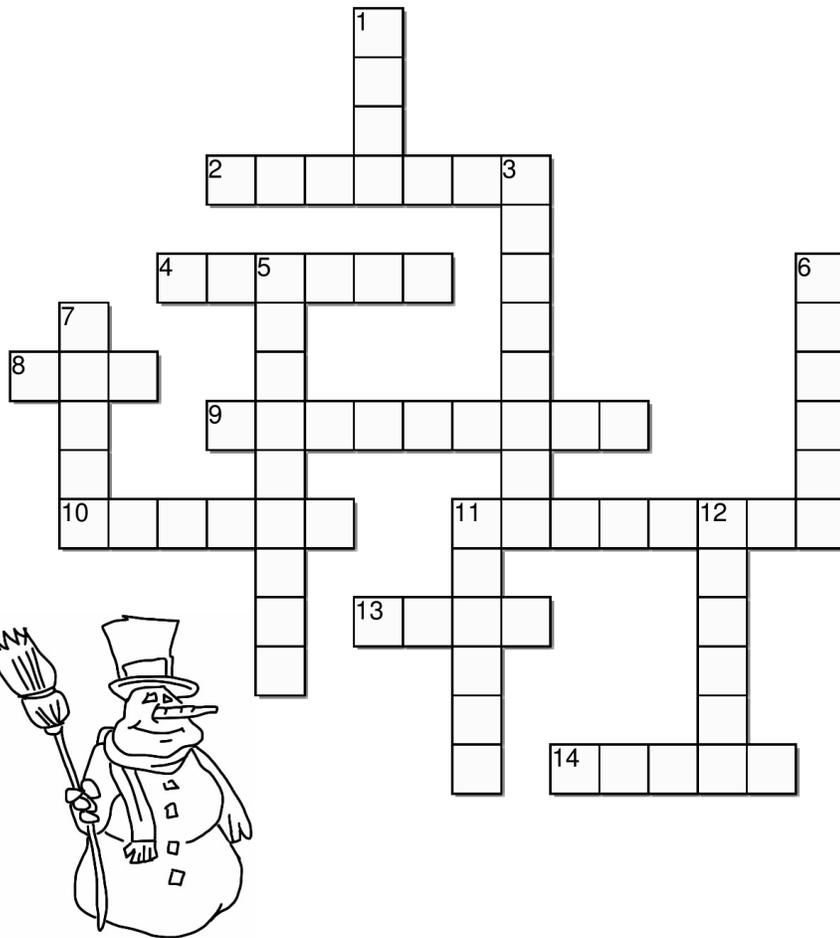
There are many opportunities for our neighborhood to connect with all the exciting events continually going on at this bustling arts hub. On the first Friday of each month, from 6-10pm, they host "First Friday", a celebration of art for the public to visit the three galleries, as well as dozens of artists' studios for an interactive experience throughout the Milepost 5 community. Every other month is a larger, more elaborate celebration, such as February 5th, which promises to be a truly spectacular celebration of the arts.

Upcoming activities open to the public include educational programs, creative workshops, readings, song workshops, open studios (which occur a few times per year) and the annual "Attic" sale, which is a combination garage/art/secondhand sale.

A calendar of arts events can be found at arthauspdx.org, as well as other useful information about how to get involved with the community, and an online signup for their regular newsletter and in-house literary magazine *Elohi Gadugi*. You can also follow Art Haus on Instagram at "Arthauspdx", and Facebook at "Art Haus Coffee".

KID'S PAGE

Winter Fun



Across

2. Keeps your hands warm.
4. Sport that takes place on ice.
8. Frozen water.
9. Snuggle up in front of this to keep warm.
10. The most famous snowman of all time. (Except Olaf!)
11. Sliding down a hill, usually on a piece of plastic.
13. Frozen precipitation that falls from the sky.
14. Drink it to warm up. Made from apples.

Down

1. Change ice to water.
3. Hand-made projectile you can throw.
5. Winter holiday.
6. Activity that you strap long boards to your feet.
7. Something you wrap around your neck to keep warm.
11. Tool used to remove snow.
12. It hangs from the roof and rhymes with bicycle.

Melt	Cider	Christmas	Skiing
Snow	Shovel	Scarf	Sledding
Hockey	Snowball	Ice	
Frosty	Icicle	Mittens	

Brain Teasers

Try to solve the problems below. Let your mind go and use your creative thinking skills! Good Luck!

1. You are a cyclist in a cross-country race. Just before the crossing finish line you overtake the person in second place! What place did you finish in?
2. In a year, there are 12 months. 7 months have 31 days. How many months have 28 days?
3. A plane crashes on the border of the U.S. and Canada. Where do they bury the survivors?
4. I have 2 U.S. coins that total 55 cents. One of them is not a nickel. What are the 2 coins?

1. Second Place. If you pass the person in second, you take second place, and they become third. 2. They all do. 3. You don't bury the survivors! 4. A fifty-cent piece, and a nickel. I said "one is not a nickel", but the other one is!



East Portland Neighbors Unite for Community-Owned Grocery

By Ben Cutler

Numerous options exist for grocery shopping in Portland. But did you know that there are grocery stores that source products directly (no middle wholesaler) from local farmers and producers? Wouldn't it be great to support a local business where the actual service was the ultimate goal and not profits? What if you got to share in the profits of the store? What if you could be a part owner? Food cooperatives provide this alternative model.

Food cooperatives are different, they are created and owned by people like you and me. Consumer-owned businesses empower their users to create the business that their community of member-owners want and need. Food co-ops put all of the ownership in the hands of the consumer. Co-ops are in business solely to serve their member-owners. Profitability is important but is not the driving force nor the ultimate measure of success. The member-owners' (the shoppers) satisfaction and experience and the fulfillment of the co-op's mission is how success is measured.

A volunteer led group of leaders across our community have joined forces to develop the Montavilla Food Co-op (MFC). You now have a tremendous opportunity in East Portland to help usher in a new food co-op to serve our community's needs. The mission of the MFC is to connect the east Portland community to healthy food, support local farmers and producers, build community wealth and advance sustainability initiatives all within a centrally located, cooperative grocery.

This local food initiative is well on its way, with nearly 500 member-owners, to realizing a new storefront. They recently completed a market study, indicating key positive indicators that a project of this kind is well received and highly appropriate for this neighborhood. The next big step is finding a suitable site. The group has been collaborating with Cooperative Development Services (a leading co-op start-up support organization) and recently hired on a contract employee to oversee further development of our ownership strategy and bring on more talent from the community.

The best way to support this amazing, grassroots community initiative is to become a lifetime member-owner. Your one-time, \$150 equity investment (payable in installments) ensures that the co-op will have the necessary community support it needs and the ability to leverage upcoming capital campaigns to open the storefront.

To become a member-owner, simply log on to www.montavilla.coop and click on "Join Today!" If you'd like to contribute your time and skills, please visit the website for more information.

Follow the group's exciting progress as it unfolds by liking their Facebook page and subscribing to the newsletter.

A Community Conversation

Grassroots leaders are organizing a community conversation this spring. What are your hopes and dreams for the area? What skills and assets can you contribute? The conversation is open to individuals living in the greater Rocky Butte area. A survey will be conducted and results will be shared with all participants! After a short opening presentation, we will break out into groups to discuss areas of shared interest such as local business and a vibrant local economy, cultivating local leadership and civic participation, reinforcing local education and sowing a culture of learning, and stewardship of the natural and built environment. Details will be emerging in the coming weeks. Interested residents and business owners wanting to attend the conversation are invited to email rockybuttetimes@gmail.com or call 503-260-9238 for more details. This community conversation is sponsored by the *Rocky Butte Times* and individual residents of the Rocky Butte community.

Letter from the Editor

This issue of the *Rocky Butte Times* marks our one year anniversary of being in print, a significant milestone for sure. Here's a little history about the roots of our (your) fledgling community paper. Last spring, a group of neighbors from the Beech and Milton neighborhood coalition partnered with the Sacramento Community Corner to work on community projects in the area. The previous year we had mobilized over 100 community members on joint projects, and raised over \$2,000 from the community to complete two large street paintings, and help with supplies needed for the 10,000 square foot Beech Street Community Garden.

We had an increasing number of items we wanted to share the community, and flyers were just not going to cut it; we had too many things to communicate! That is when we had the idea to create a community newsletter. We needed to get the word out about needs, logistics, opportunities, fundraising events, etc; and to spread the vision of building a strong community culture. Our community is much larger than one or two streets; we recognize that our real community is much broader than that, eventually we would love to see this entire area vibrant and flourishing!

I've taken the lead on establishing the *Rocky Butte Times*, though this is truly a community driven paper. One important piece of a strong community culture is shared stories. That is why we, collectively, hope that you enjoy reading the stories. We also hope that you are able to find ways of being a part of the community in meaningful ways. If you have a story that the community would benefit from hearing, I invite you to submit your stories for inclusion in the next issue of the *Rocky Butte Times*. Rockybuttetimes@gmail.com.