How School Modernization Bond Would Affect Schools Serving North Tabor
Gabe Frayne

A measure slated for the May 2011 election will ask voters to approve a $48 million dollar, six-year bond for upgrades and modernization in the Portland public schools. It is estimated that if approved, this measure would cost the median-value homeowner about two dollars per $1,000 dollars of assessed value. Here is a partial list of upgrades planned for North Tabor area schools: [source: Portland Public Schools]

- Franklin High School: Updates to exterior grounds, including playing fields, wheelchair ramps, updated fire alarm system, better technology such as computer projectors, new stage equipment.
- Grant High School: All of the above plus roof repairs
- Mt. Tabor Middle: Upgrade to date science labs, computer projectors, wheelchair ramps, increased efficiency in school heating systems, secure exterior door entry systems
- Laurelhurst Elementary: Full renovation and upgrade to bring Laurelhurst to 21st Century Standards. All projects will be designed to reduce energy usage and demonstrate good resource stewardship.
- Glencoe Elementary: Teaching technology update; removing an outdated play structure; increased efficiency in school heating system; wheelchair ramps; secure exterior door entry systems.

The North Tabor news would like to initiate a regular feature on the North Tabor Neighborhood Tree Planting event. Residents are strongly encouraged to send any relevant information to news@northtabor.org or to call and leave a message at 503-928-4655 if your school is having a public event. Fundraising or has other information of interest to the North Tabor community, please let us know.

2011 North Tabor, Sunnyside, Kerns and Laurelhurst Tree Planting Saturday, January 22nd

Last Winter Marker
Sun., Feb. 13, 11am - 1pm

Looking for Businesses Interested in Forming
Gresham Area Business Association
Call (503) 928-4655 or email board@northtabor.org

North Tabor Street Names – Couch Street
Robert Jordan

In the last issue we told you about some of the street names in North Tabor - how up-on annexation areas to the east of downtown were merged into the existing system of naming, with numbered streets north south and东西, the original lettered streets being named for prominent early citizens, but still in an alphabetical order. (Burnside, as we learned, is named for David l Burnside, an early businessman.) In some cases it looks like they had to stretch a bit to find someone with a name that would fit, but for the next street to the north, Couch, there was no context - Captain John Couch (whose name was of French origin - although we now say "couch", it was probably pronounced "coosh" at some point) was one of the prominent of Portland's original founders. He first arrived in Oregon in 1849, only 25 years old and captain of the brig Maryland, and made three trips before settling in Oregon City in 1844. Realizing that Oregon City was too far upriver for easy access to the sea, in 1845 he staked his new claim just downriver from the little village founded by Asa Lovejoy and Francis Pettigrew (Pettigrew had bought Lovejoy's original partner, William Overton). It was Couch's decision that really gave Portland its start as a port, and it was the fusion of his land claim with the original Portland claim that was incorporated as a city in 1851. Couch finally left his home in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1848 to join him in the new territory. Carolyn Couch's maiden name was Flanders... but more about that in a future issue.

Benefits of Trees:

For those of you getting a tree or thinking about next year, take a moment to realize all of these great benefits that trees offer:

- Planting a tree in your yard or parking strip creates long lasting benefits enjoyed by everyone. A tree removes pollutants from the air and a typical tree absorbs 19 pounds of pollutants, cleans 330 pounds of carbon dioxide, and filters 300 gallons of rainwater each year.
- Trees also intercept and retain 760 gallons of runoff each year, which help keep our rivers clean and help save us money on storm water costs. Trees can cool our homes in the summer and shade our sidewalks, keeping the city cooler during hot summer days.
- Friends of Trees took measurements on street pavement shaded by a street tree and street pavement that was not shaded and revealed a 50 degree difference in temperature (149 degrees vs. 99 degrees).
- Trees raise the property value of your home by up to 20%. Also, unlike many other things, trees appreciate in value each year and by planting trees now, we can make our city greener. Trees that we plant today will help make a green future for our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors, and fellow Portlanders.
- The North Tabor Neighborhood Association and Friends of Trees have worked together to offer trees for the parking strip or yard at a discounted price. The price for a tree is about half what you'd pay at a nursery for a similar sized tree. The price includes a site inspection (to ensure you get the right-sized tree for your parking strip), hole digging for you, help with planting your tree, stakes, ties, labels, information on proper tree care techniques, and the opportunity to meet fellow neighbors as a volunteer, Additionally, the trees are at a fraction of the cost of a similar-sized tree at a local nursery and up to 70% less than what you'd pay a contractor. The price includes Friends of Trees delivering the tree(s) to your location, professional planting by a volunteer tree planting crew, and all of the appropriate authorizations from the city and utility companies secured for you.

Volunteers assemble at 10:00 Friends of Trees Planting

In addition to paying for your tree(s), you are requested to volunteer to help plant trees from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Volunteer opportunities are always needed and if you are not getting a tree you can volunteer anyway! Planting has already begun for the January 22nd North Tabor Tree Planting event and volunteers are definitely needed. Trucks for delivery are much needed, so if you have a truck – we need you! Sunnyside Methodist Church will be the staging spot again this year, but don’t worry if you don’t have a truck, it’s okay! There were Bike Planting Crews that used trailers and bikes (Dutch style utility bikes) to deliver dozens of trees and there were local high school students registering volunteers, but most of all there was community spirit.

Let’s make this year a success, beautify our neighborhood, and do community building all at the same time. Encourage everyone in the North Tabor neighborhood that has January 22nd free, to sign-up for volunteering and come out. Additionally, if you don’t have a neighborhood get one or get to know your neighbors, in addition to a little exercise and fun air. Contact Moonrose Doherty, North Tabor Neighborhood Friends of Trees Coordinator or Robert Jordan, North Tabor Neighborhood Friends of Trees Assistant Coordinator at northtobar@plantportland.org or 503-282-8864 ext. 33 to get involved with this great event!
Welcome To North Tabor
Neighborhood associations are a recognized voice in the City of Portland. We encourage you to become an active member. Let your voice be heard! For more information, please contact your neighborhood association office. Participation is voluntary and open to all residents who live, work, own property, or have a business, nonprofit or government facility within our boundaries.

North Tabor Neighborhood
NTN 97214

The North Tabor Neighborhood (NTN) is bounded on the west by 44th Avenue and east by 69th Avenue. The southern edge of NTN is Burns Street South, except in the area between 44th and 49th Avenues where the neighborhood extends south to Stark Street. The Barnett Expressway (I-84) creates the northern boundary of the neighborhood.

Next Issue
The deadline for submissions is February 15, 2011 for distribution in March. Submit articles and photos to: editor@northtabor.org or NTN 97214, 533 NE 50th Ave, Portland, OR 97214. Articles need to include the title and author plus photo captions and credits. Photo(s) need to have a file name referring to the article title. Please submit as plain text, no formatting. Images should be in jpeg. 3.25" wide at 300dpi. Submit ads to advertising@northtabor.org by February 15, 2011 to reserve space. Ad placement is based on payment and the earliest receipt of ad copy.

The North Tabor News is published by the North Tabor Neighborhood Association. Unless otherwise noted, opinions expressed are the opinion of the author and not those of the North Tabor Neighborhood Association or its board. Publication and distribution of the North Tabor News is the result of a combined volunteer effort. To help with the production, please contact volunteer@northtabor.org or submit your articles, stories, photos, announcements or suggestions via email to editor@northtabor.org or NTN 97214, 533 NE 50th Ave, Portland OR 97214 or South Uplift, 3534 SE Main St., Portland, OR 97214 or have a message at 503-928-4655. Printing and postage expense for the North Tabor News is paid from advertisers fees with a supplement from the North Tabor Neighborhood Association and a small grant from South Uplift.

Looking Forward to Meeting and Working with North Tabor Neighbors
NTN Chair Zach Michael

The North Tabor Neighborhood Association’s new board, introduced to you in the NInovice issue of this publication, met on November 16th to vote in officers, volunteer for committee positions and elect one new board member. New positions are as follows: Zach Michael, Chair and North Tabor Neighborhood Committee; Jacob Wolter, Vice Chair and Sustainability; Moonrose Doherty, Secretary and Sustainability; Aja Huya, Treasurer; and SE Uplift Representative: Alexi Gavin, Land Use Co-Chair, Nicolas Barbour, Land Use Co-Chair and Providence Good Neighbor Committee; David Ball, Providence Good Neighbor Committee; Gay Moll, Member-at-Large; Shawneen Seth, Member-at-Large; Large, David Delk, Member-at-Large; and new Member-at-Large, Jessica Stevens.

Thank you for your support and continued interest in our neighborhood. We are excited to meet and work with you and hope that you will find this Newsletter informative and useful.

North Tabor Neighborhood Association Board Members
Chair Zach Michael
Vice Chair Jacob Wolter
Treasurer Aja Huya
Secretary Moonrose Doherty
Board Members:

- Skyler McKenna
- Shawneen Seth
- Tony Do
- Tomcrafted

Volunteer Coordinator, Volunteer@northtabor.org

Work Group Contacts

Volunteer Coordinator, Volunteer@northtabor.org

Advertise in the North Tabor News
Reach 3000+ North Tabor Residents for pennies per copy.
Advertising rates start as low as $25 per issue.
503-928-4655 or email advertising@northtabor.org

 NTN Board Meetings
The North Tabor Neighborhood Association Board currently meets the first Tuesday of each month. The January meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 18th, 7:30 p.m to 9 p.m. Unless otherwise announced the meetings will be held in Conference Room D of the Portland Cancer Center. You may call 503-928-4655 for announcements of any changes in meeting place, time or location. Board meetings are open to the public and while generally not mandatory attendance by member is encouraged at a meeting of the board, anyone can participate in discussions. The board will schedule open member meeting a few times a year where voting is open to all active members of the North Tabor Neighborhood Association. Unless changes are made to the schedule, the January meeting will take place at the same time and location on Tuesday, January 15th.

Montavilla Food Coop Community Meeting
Sunday, February 26th
2:00pm
Montavilla United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
232 SE 80th Avenue
There is a separate area for children but parents will be responsible for supervision. Parents are encouraged to bring things to occupy children.

*Check our website for updates on time & location, to see if we’ve made any changes to our food coop meetings or added a second weekday evening time: montavilla.coop*

We need your help! There are numerous ways to get involved with varying levels of commitment. Any amount of donated funds, supplies or volunteer time will help move forward.

The MFC is also looking for donated items to use in our start-up storage space:
- sealants, measuring cups, knifes, cutting boards, and funnels
- refrigerators, freezers
- tables
- racks
- utility sink
- cash register, credit card processing equipment
- dry erase boards
- storage cabinets
- signage for allergies, and sorting
- pallet jack
- storage containers

Go to montavilla.coop to stay updated on our progress and learn about other ways to get involved.

From the website, you can do a search for “We support the Montavilla Food Co-op” post to put your in your window. Also check us out on Twitter and Facebook! Thank you to our community for moving us forward!

SE Uplift Collecting Items for Transition Projects
Do you have an old swear patch, pair of shoes or blanket hiding in the back of your closet? Did you get one too many toothbrushes or cooking pots last holiday? Now is the year! Why don't we want/unanted/needed things to community members in need?

SE Uplift is collecting items to donate to Transition Projects in an effort to provide warmth and basic necessities to community members experiencing homelessness. If you have items you'd like to donate, please bring your donations to:
SE Uplift, 3534 SE Main Street, Mon.-Thursday 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Jan - February 25th, 2011.

Wash List:
- Hygiene products (any size; unused)
  - Deodorant
  - Toothpaste
  - Toothbrushes
  - Razors
  - Shaving cream
  - Lotion
  - Feminine hygiene products

Linens (gently used is fine)
- Blankets
- Towels
- Twin-size sheets
- Pillows

Clothing (for adults; gently used is fine)
- Clothing (casual, to the extent possible)
- Underwear and socks
- Shoes
- Shoe strings
- Belts
Positions Open for Sullivan’s Gulch Project Advisory Committee
Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) have announced an invitation to join a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to assist in the development of a concept plan for the future Sullivan’s Gulch Bikeway Project. The PAC will consist of four members, one representing each of the property boundary limits of the Union Pacific (UP) Railroad’s Graham Line, and provide a conceptual plan for the area.

The Advisory Committee will include:
- Representing the project to their constituents
- Representing the perspectives of their constituents to the project
- Providing political and public support
- Maximizing the vision of the design and adjacent community development opportunities

Representation is sought from a wide variety of interested audiences, including impacted property owners, neighborhood residents, members of the Asian and African American communities, pedestrian and bicycle advocates, and others.

The Sullivan’s Gulch Project Advisory Committee is anticipated to meet 5 to 10 times between April 2011 and January 2012. In addition, there will be approximately three community meetings, and PBOT will host the Project Advisory Committee to attend.

If you are interested, please visit portlandparks.org and complete the online application to sign up to receive future updates on the PAC and on the Sullivan’s Gulch Trail Project, please contact Sarah Coyle at 503.823.3355 or Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong at 503.823.5113.

For more information, visit the website www.portlandonline.com/transportation/Bikeways or contact Rick Newlands (503.823-7780, rick.newlands@portland.gov) or Sarah Figueroa (503.823-0805, sarah.figueroa@portland.oregon.gov) to learn more about the project.

NE/SE 50s Bikeway Project

The NE/SE 50s Bikeway Project is currently being developed by the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), a citizen’s advisory committee, and the public to address the issue of how to best provide a bicycle connection between NE Thompson Street and 57th Avenue in the Russian Hill neighborhood to SE Woodstock Boulevard and 52nd Avenue in the Woodstock neighborhood. The pub is invited to an open house on January 26th at the Woodstock Library. The project will connect to SE 532 Woodstock Boulevard between 5:00PM and 8:00PM.

At the 19th North Neighborhood meeting Rich Newlands outlined the current planning effort and discussed the project. The project could be referred to the Advisory Committee.

The November 15 meeting of the NE/SE 50s Bikeway Project Citizens Advisory Committee was open to the public, but focused on continued discussion of the project and given the limited time available was not a review of the project background. An update on progress was given, the committee and the Advisory Committee’s recommendations were discussed, and the next steps in outreach and what that process might look like were discussed.

A variety of different options along the bikeway were featured in the Draft Design Concept and discussion of what best fits a certain spot was typical. The design options include including walking paths, bike-only lanes, bike/pedestrian paths, transit-only lanes, and pedestrian-only lanes.

For North Portland the use of a HAWK signal/light instead of a regular full signal at the 23rd and Burnside post was supported by multiple residents. Some residents expressed dissatisfaction with the speed limit of lanes in the area. Some residents were concerned about the impact of a lack of vehicle traffic on tens of streets, a safer environment for kids, and the added benefit of less air pollution as more people can look to walk to travel.

The upcoming open houses that the NE/SE 50s Bikeway Project will host should give residents an opportunity to see what the project is going and give input. Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church on SE 532 SE Woodstock Blvd is the upcoming open house meeting where residents are encouraged to drop in anytime between 5:00PM and 8:00PM. TriMet bus #71 and #19 service the location.

National Neighborhood Volunteering Needs for Ride Connection Program

Karinka E. Easterby

If you’re one of our New Year’s resolutions to get back and be more active in your community look no further than Ride Connection! Become a volunteer driver for those who need assistance in your neighborhood! Help get older adults and people with disabilities to doctor appointments, grocery stores or other destinations.

Each day many requests for rides are being denied due to the lack of volunteer drivers. Call today to take the first step in becoming a volunteer driver! Ride Connection is looking for people who can make the time to see how precise your hours are so it we have created many volunteer options to fit around your schedule! Please contact Trink Easterby at 503.525.1733 or at trink.easterby@portlandconnection.org to learn about the various options.

Ride Connection, a private non-profit organization, and its network of volunteer drivers work in collaboration to provide vital services that strengthen our region’s current transportation services. For over 25 years, the Ride Connection program has provided safe, reliable transportation options for individuals in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. Our services are available to anyone who needs them and is an independent person. Whether it’s door-to-door transportation, travel training using public transit, helping low-income job seekers to get to an interview or providing general public services in rural communities, Ride Connection delivers transportation options for those in need: older adults, people with disabilities, rural residents, and low income job seekers. This past year Ride Connection and its service partners provided over 393,000 rides.

For the Chicken Hearted: Chickengate by Marykate Moe

Holidays! What holidays! For chickens, New Year’s Day is like every other day No going to bed late and no sleeping in. No overeating, no hangovers, no hangovers. But do not conclude that a hen’s life is entirely without vic…

I have never told you, but I understand chicken-speak.

This being the case, I recently positioned myself behind the compost, with the discretionar favorable to listen in on some of the chicken activities. Fortunately, the chicken crops are located. Usually we give them a good deal of privacy. We cuckishly discreetly to alert them of our presence whereas we are not afraid to get into any family conflict. And even though their concept of personal hygiene lacks finesse, we will not and do not新模式.

Nevertheless, I feel confident that you will understand why I have decided to share with you the following unusual fowl activities.

It all began some time ago, when we received a generous basket of fresh, free-range chicken, one of the very kind of home breeders in our North Portland neighborhood.

Feeling festive, I supplied my feathered friends with a portion and soon left them to patricle in silience, without my company. It was a common practice in our community, and it proved unsuccessful attempts to participate in an interspecies celebration. They took to the theatre immediately and became quite anto human. ‘Happy New Year!’ they toasted loudly, and ‘We should do this more often!’ It wasn’t long before another shipment of barly dropped an, and I was received with standing ovation to their Food dish without delay. This time the conversation in the yard turned to less genial objects like religion, income and (forgetful) political affairs.

A happy New Year to all the other urban dwellers, here - as mentioned - behind the compost.

You may imagine my surprise when I overheard a hated discussion, interrupted by loud hiccuping. At first I could only pick up the words “shush fund”, “recording system” and “C.H.P.”, which, I know stands for “Committee Head Of Poultry”, often disrespectfully shortened to “CHEEP.”

But it was clear that this was no other chicken stuff I strained my ears to hear anything, and, without suggesting that these are anything more than idle ruminations, I was able to pick up the following information:

- A large group of United Chickens, a.k.a. “The Poultry Lines” were called upon to Settle their an competition with no monks”, and were said not to be in the local egg business for altruistic reasons alone.
- The Allied Coop of North Portland, a competition that they should be united with the United Coop of North Tabor, to increase their power over these regions...
- United Chicken’s mission, is said to have appointed informants in all min/strr...
- Chickens in a coop not too far from here, are said to have...
- Claw prints, feathers and: chickengate recordings were collected to create a databank of the poultry population...
- It was reported, that in the neighboring part of town, a concrete reinforced underground facility is it storing significant amounts of chicken dung for religious purposes, which is then used to light long, long...

I hope you understand my concern.

Best Wishes for the New Year!
Shingani-East African Fare

by Ajai Haaja

The Awiya Shikha family responded to a need in the community for traditional Somali fare. At the end of October they opened Shingani on 76th Avenue just north of New Jersey. Named after their village in Somalia, they opened the restaurant to fulfill the requests of the growing East African community in the North Tabor area.

On my visit to Shingani there were many members of the East African community ordering their favorites in Somali. Although the food is typical Somali fare, the atmosphere is very similar to an Italian sanamu, stuffed with beef, lamb, and chicken, as well as a variety of pasta and salads.

The Shingani menu includes traditional African breakfast items such as marrirred beef livens and diced beef cubes served with vegetables. Appetizers on the menu include sanamu, a tangy dish similar to an Indian samosa, stuffed with beef, lentils, and rice, as well as a variety of specialty breads and falafel. All of the entrees are priced under $9.99 and include a variety of meats including goat, beef, chicken, and a tuna steak served over rice, pasta, or Somali grills. Many of the dishes are a decidely Indian influence, including Somalis naan, chapatti, sanamos, and lazi to mention a few.

As an appetizer I tried sambusaks filled with lentils and hajjo (Somalian flatbread). For an entree I decided on the Tuna Steak served with grills and a lentil soup. All of the entrees are served with a side salad and a banana. It was explained to me that in Somalia it is traditional to eat a banana with your lunch or dinner. My meal was also accompanied by a savory Somali coffee brew with ginger, cinnamon, cardamon, and cloves.

Heaping plates of rice and noodles with delectable looking meats and curries made their way into the dining room as I waited for my meal. Finally, my generous meal arrived with a delicious green chutney and a red hot sauce to spice up my meal. The slightly sweet lentil soup was a nice accompaniment to my savory greens. My tuna steak was seasoned nicely and served well done. My meal was tasty and very reasonably priced.

As I finished my meal my server, a member of the Awiya Shikha family, showed us around the small restaurant. Next to the dining room is a traditional Afghan lounge with low sofas lining the walls and traditional decorations. He explained to us that this type of lounge would be found in most restaurants in Somalia. As he walked us around the restaurant it was clear to me the careful thought that had gone into making the restaurant authentically East African. By the crowd you could tell they would be well on their way to creating a gathering place for their community centered around East African comfort food.

Are you Prepared?

by Ajai Haaja

What started as a conversation over coffee among like-minded people interested in Survival Skills has now become the Portland Preparedness Center (PPC). Alex Anary opened the doors in November, on the corner of Glisan and 2nd, and he has made it the community about survival preparedness. The PPC was deliberately opened as a center and not as a store, as Alex wants to make a space available for the community to learn about becoming more independent.

Anary’s interest in survival was a natural extension of his community access TV news show. Alex began to follow the increase in the natural disasters and growing concerns about the stability of our electrical grid. Frustrated by what he felt was the lack of interest among many people to be prepared, Alex wanted to get to solutions. One of the fundamental solutions he discovered was being prepared not scared.

As he began to look around the Portland area he realized that many of the basic survival supplies people need are only available via mail order. The PPC hopes to fill this void, but not carry things that you could easily find elsewhere, such as gardening supplies. The inventory at the PPC includes a variety of food, water, and medical supplies.

In February the PPC will be hosting the 1st Annual PPC Survival Skills Workshop. There will be speakers and workshops to help the community learn about a variety of independent living skills.

In the future Anary hopes to develop a community garden and conduct more workshops demonstrating a variety of things including setting up solar ovens. Check out their website at www.portlandprepared.com or stop by the store if you are interested in finding out more about the Portland Preparedness Center Tues - Sat 10am - 6pm 7262 NE Glisan St portlandprepared.com 503-252-2525

Mac's Deli Closes Shop

C Jordan

It is said to be the closing of a small business that serves the neighborhood. Joshua Peterson sent this photo, bringing the news that Mac's Deli is gone.

We rush about our daily lives without much to worry about since the little stores, shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs in our neighborhood are reliable and trusty. But what if the little store you rely on for your morning coffee is closing down?

Small neighborhood businesses have a symbiotic relationship with their communities. They provide service and convenience to a community and contribute to the history and sense of place. But they also depend on the patronage of the community for their continued survival. One of the good things about Portland is that there are so many choices for everything. No one is saying that we should limit our choices but it really is a culture that supports the concept of a 20-Minute Neighborhood, we need to foster the businesses that serve our immediate neighborhood at least some of the time when we head out the door in search of that cup of coffee, slice of pizza, glass of beer or whatever we are seeking.
Cafe Monet
Grand Opening
on E Burnside
at 55th
C. Jordan

The coffee shop on the corner of 55th and E
Burnside has changed hands several times over the past few years. It has reopened this month with a new name and new ownership and management. Owner Ramona Arnold is familiar with this area having lived as a child in Laurelhurst. Ramona brings a background in customer service and human resources to the business. She is excited about bringing in her niece Amrie Wheelon as manager and to provide an outlet for Amrie’s baking and pastry skills. “Having Amrie here during the week gives me time to care for my elderly mother at home,” said Ramona.

Amrie also brings her experience in baking and catering, services to be offered at Cafe Monet. Cafe Monet offers coffees and specialty teas, smoothies, cold sandwiches, pastries, soups, biscuits and gravy, and baked goods and pastries. The premises will be available after hours for private functions. Catering is available for birthdays, holidays, weddings and special events.

“Rotating exhibits will highlight local artists and brighten the walls and add a variety of seating arrangements including cozy tables, counter and a larger table at the back for group gatherings—and of course there is always takeout for those artists who would like to be here for the conversion of the Laurelhurst Retirement Center,” Cafe Monet also hopes to serve the needs of the wider North Portland, Mt. Tabor and Laurelhurst neighborhoods. Ramona loves that this is such a bike and pedestrian oriented neighborhood. Stop by soon and welcome Cafe Monet to the hood.

Cafe Monet 5420 E Burnside 503-232-1621 Hours: Mon - Sun 9 am - 3:30 pm

North Tabor News

January/February 2011

North Tabor Artist: Nina Frayne
Interview by Monique Mos

“I believe that art is a social act and that it has a fundamental function in society, community, the neighborhood. We can not live in a world without artists.”

“Being able to study painting at the studio of Maestro Athdo Hernandez meant everything to me, at the onset of the search for my own voice. Maestro Hernandez was a follower of the great Catalan-Uruguayan painter Josep Torres Garcia, founder of the Escuela del Sur Workshop. Torres Hernandez is an incredible painter, engraver, designer and ceramic artist. But first and foremost, he was an art theorist and a great intellectual with a profound knowledge of the arts and of life itself. To be able to go to the Escuela del Sur, was of fundamental importance. It changed my life.

“At the same time, after high school, at age 16, I entered the academy of fine arts. I started studying graphic design and learned how to draw and was good at it, but it did not really suit me. Ever since I was a young girl, I wanted to become a painter. My father painted too, when he was a young man. He was profoundly religious and his paintings were very dark, with old, bearded men. His style was dramatic-somewhat like El Greco, with mostly religious themes. I grew up in a very large family and we lived in an enormous house, but there were so many of us that I had to create my own space and I did that by painting, which allowed me to be introspective. I never did finish art school in Uruguay, because of the military coup in 1973. At 18, I had to leave the country and continue my studies in Mexico.”

“Initially, because of the massacre, I was influenced by the Greeks. Later by Spanish, Catalan and French painting, especially by the palette of the Escuela del Sur, with its brown, gray, ochers and the light of the south. Many in France really: Kandinsky, modern European art in general. My first exhibition took place in Mexico. It was called "Torres Garcia" [Torres Garcia’s Third Generation]. My work in those days was figurative and I was very concerned with the role of the Escuela del Sur and with the human figure.

“Then, at some point in your painting, you discover your own language; you create your own grammar. Those days, I am mostly interested in abstraction, color and texture. Color and texture is what best describes my painting. Complicated, decorative painting annoys me. I do not want a lady to come in and say that she wants something to match the color of the living room. And when there is no creation: no emotion, no compromise; that is sad. If I have any favorite pieces, they would be the ones that show an emotional discharge when I look at the strokes, the colors. When I light a painting, because I am looking for something more, I may destroy it and redo it, 4 times or 40 times. It is working and growing. When finally, after hard work, it becomes something, I want to keep it. I think this is it! And that is the most incredible feeling. I believe it requires 99% of inspiration and 1% of aspiration, as they say. No music, just hard work.”

“You do not paint for yourself. You paint for others. I paint to express emotions, express my own discourse, but I want to show my feelings through color, form and content. In our neighborhood there is not an abundance of places to show our work. That concerns me. We need to conquer and open new public spaces, available for our community, because what makes a neighborhood livable, are the people. We, the artists, work for them, not just for ourselves…

“Whenever you look at this house, our neighbors immediately came to meet us. That was a very good feeling. Our neighborhood is like a family. North Tabor is a victory, with a neighborhood spirit. Community. People know each other and help each other.”

You can see some of Nina’s work on exhibit at Cafe Monet, 5420 E Burnside, now through the end of January. If you are a North Tabor artist and would like an interview, please contact editor@northtabor.org or call 503-928-4655

Greetings From Your New Neighbors at the Bread & Roses Center

Brian Barrett, BACC

The Bread & Roses Center (BACC) is the ongoing community building arm of the freedom Socialist Party (SP) and Radical Women (RW), two socialist feminist international organizations. They recently moved into the Montavilla North Tabor neighborhood and look forward to getting to know everyone in the community.

The Bread & Roses Center offers a wide selection of books and materials on socialism and feminism. "FSP members are feminists, on socialists, arts activists, free speech advocates, and LGBTQ freedom fighters. They are multi-hued, men and women, youth and seniors, queer and straight, students and workers."

For more information about the party and its activities locally and internationally, stop in at Bread & Roses or visit www.socialism.org. (Cont. Page 6)

Got Stuff? Cool Stuff? C. Jordan

Last year Shag Midcentury & More relocated their store specializing in vintage furniture, 20th-century art and clothing next to North Tabor in the Montavilla neighborhood. Shag Midcentury & More has been in business for 7 1/2 years in Portland and was voted as one of the Top 5 Mid-Century Modern stores in the US by Apartment Therapy Magazine.

Sleeping across the threshold during Montavilla’s January First Friday event strams of the theme from the Twilight Zone came to mind. I thought to myself, “Wow, this room looks just like the house I grew up in half a century ago.” My husband gravitated toward the rack of vintage Playboy magazines while I checked out the furnishings. Shag of Shag’s mid-century vintage - purchased or salvaged and restored before it met an unnecessary fate. “Everything we sell has some history and we like it,” explains Randy Moses, co-owner. “And it is fun because you can create a style all your own without your neighborhood having it.”

Shag takes an eco-friendly approach to business too. When Shag relocated they focused on recycled fixtures. “Our walls have a Metro recycled print, the counter is a salvaged cabinet display, our ceiling light fixtures are actually old stout doors with new spot lights mounted on them,” adds Cindy Hiplos, co-owner. Shag uses fluorescent lighting, no A/C, and salvages everything possible. Customers can recycle clean packing peanuts at Shag by bringing them in an enclosed bag or call 503.493.7011 for more details. You can also bring your old light fixtures for repair and have Cindy Hiplos alter that cool old chandelier you’ve been hanging onto.

You can learn more about Shag’s environmental commitment and check out the current inventory by visiting them at 418 SE 81st Ave (just north of FSE Stark) or on the web at www.shagmidcentury.com as one of the Top 5 Mid-Century Modern stores in the US by Apartment Therapy Magazine.

North Tabor House Styles

American Foursquare R Jordan

This month we’re starting a series on some of the residential architecture that you can find here in our neighborhood. Even though North Tabor is one of the smaller neighborhoods in the city and has never been among the most affluent, you can still find a great variety of house styles here, dating back to some early farmhouses from the 1890’s. This issue we’ll start with an easy one – the American Foursquare. There are only a few of this type actually in North Tabor, but it is one of the most common styles in the city, and is one found in great numbers all around the country. Fourquares were built from the late 1890’s well into the 1920’s just after the “Victorian” era (faux real romantic sometimes called houses “Old PDX”), but that is a completely bogus term.

As the name implies, these houses are basically a big box - two and a half stories and a square, with four main rooms below and four above. There is usually a large porch, a central corridor in front and a hipped roof, though such details can vary from house to house, and some later models include glassed-in porches on the porch or whatever new fashion caught the builder’s fancy. In Portland they are, of course, almost all made of wood. (Cont. On Page 6)
Tree Stewards Needed for Urban Forest Stewardship

Portland Parks & Recreation needs you to staff our Urban Forest Bio Blitz this winter. This is your opportunity to put your knowledge of trees to the test, have fun, and meet other tree people.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Bio Blitz, which includes: identifying trees by their leaf and flower characteristics, and connecting you to resources to help you. On exhibit and hands-on workshops on such topics as: water and energy savings, safety and risk assessment for trees, and silver birch - warthawening your home, and Gardening and Tree Care.

First meeting at the Forest Nursery. Don’t worry, you will be well-taught. No experience necessary.

Volunteer shifts are from 8:30 to 11:00 and 2:00 to 5:00.

Please contact us for more information.

For more information, please contact us at 503-823-6550 or 503-823-6556.

Volunteer@portlandoregon.gov

North Tabor News
January/February 2011
Advocating for Change at the State Capitol
Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 1221 SW 4th Ave., Portland

The Advocacy 101 workshop is designed to give you the tools to be an effective advocate for your neighborhood and community needs during the 2011 State Legislative Session. The topics that will be covered include an overview of the State Legislature, the state legislative process, lobbying 101, and don’ts, and community organizing strategies.

Information you will gain from the workshop:
* An understanding of the State Legislature
* The process for how a bill becomes a law
* Strategies for mobilizing your base of membership or coalitions to maximize advocacy impact
* How to build relationships with legislators and their staffs
* Do’s and don’ts for lobbying on visits, committee testimony, letters & phone calls
* How to navigate the Oregon State Legislature website for information during the 2011 session.

To register or for more information: Jeri Williams, PHONE: 503-823-5827 or EMAIL: jeri.williams@portlandoregon.gov

Homeless Street Count
The Portland/Multnomah County Homeless Street Count and One Night Shelter Count are scheduled for January 26, 2011.

What is the Homeless Street Count? The Homeless Street Count is an effort to learn more about the individuals and families experiencing homelessness on a given night in Portland/Multnomah County. It captures a snapshot of those who are “unsheltered,” i.e. illegally sleeping outside on the streets, in an abandoned building on the night of January 26, 2011. In combination with the One Night Shelter Count, which is conducted on the same night, it provides important information about the level of homelessness in our community and the need for services.

Why does Portland/Multnomah County conduct a homeless count? Communities that receive federal funding for homeless services are required to conduct a comprehensive point-in-time homeless count every two years in order to continue receiving funding. The data collected from the count also helps the City, County, and their nonprofit partners plan for the funding and services needed to meet the needs of homeless persons in our community.

How can you help?
- If you know or are interested in the location of a homeless camp in your neighborhood, visit www.portlandonline.com/phib/streetcount to report the camp. The information will be shared confidentially with outreach workers so that they can reach out to the camp during the week of the count.
- If you would like to volunteer for the count, contact Zane Potter at Zane.Potter@portlandoregon.gov.
- If you work for an organization that comes into contact with people who are homeless and unhoused, contact Kris Smock at kris@metronewtacklingpoverty.org to sign up your organization to participate in the count.

Coalition for Clean Rivers
The Regional Coalition for Clean Rivers and Streams is forming an online panel to share information about water quality issues in the Portland-Vancouver area. You can join the Clean River Panel online by submitting a brief, demographic survey. And when you join, the coalition enters your name in a raffle for a $500 prize.

The individual survey questions remain confidential. The coalition uses the information only to keep track of general demographics of panel participants. The coalition will invite survey participants to share opinions about the health of local rivers and streams in future surveys.

The Portland Bureau of Environmental Services is one of eight public agencies and municipalities in the Regional Coalition for Clean Rivers and Streams. The coalition works to raise public awareness of water quality issues and the impacts of stormwater pollution.

Take the online survey now and join the panel at www.cleanrivervalve.com.

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To help ensure equal access to City programs, services and activities, the City of Portland will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-4309, TTY 503-823-6868 with such requests.