



CONCORDIA NEWS

A free publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association

July 2022

Music in the air

Portland's "Free for All" concert at Alberta Park takes place July 15 with Latin dance band Son de Cuba. CNews profiles the exciting group on **Page 7**.

In this month's **Artworks** column, we talk to a local sculptor who's making her neighborhood brighter by "planting" a piece in a tree. **Page 6**.

CNA Mission Statement

To connect Concordia residents and businesses — inform, educate and report on activities, issues and opportunities of the neighborhood.

Concordia News

This free, monthly publication of CNA will abstain from publishing anything that could be construed as libel.

Copies are delivered to all residences and many community and business locations in the Concordia neighborhood.

Concordia News is printed on 40% post-consumer or better paper, manufactured at a local mill.

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American Legion

Veterans renovate, revive Post 134

By Rob Cullivan
CNews Editor

Robin Eckstein, who served in Iraq, summed up why it's important for her and other military veterans to have a space where they can bond.

"You can't watch 'Generation Kill' on HBO and all of sudden know what it's like to deploy."

As our nation prepares to celebrate Independence Day, CNews spoke to Eckstein, along with three other veterans, about their lives as well as their meeting space, American Legion Frederick and John Ravin Post 134, 2104 NE Alberta St.

Founded in 1947, the Post has a storied history in Concordia and has even drawn attention from the national press at times for its outreach work, including serving as a warming shelter in the past for the homeless during winter. Since its founding it's seen everything from potlucks and neighborhood dances to raucous punk rock shows and LGBTQ trivia nights.

Current Post Commander Barry M. Larrain said Post 134 welcomes all veterans of any political affiliation whatsoever. Eckstein said she is a lesbian who has encouraged other LGBTQ veterans to join the American Legion, and Peenesh Shah, a state assistant attorney general and Post member, noted his parents are from India.

"If we live in a community that is diverse, it should be the case that our Post is diverse," Eckstein said. "The military is a microcosm of the nation. There are people of all different backgrounds, genders, sexualities, races and nationalities."

Construction costs

The Legion members said they're currently seeking around \$25,000 in donations to complete renovating the Post's Quonset style building and want to encourage younger veterans to join. To that end, the Post—named for two brothers who died while serving in the navy in World War II—is highlighting its building renovation efforts and asking the public to consider funding the construction work. The Post has already installed a new furnace, completed some work on its walls and floors and is looking



From left: Patrick Bardel, Peenesh Shah and Robin Eckstein are working to renew American Legion Post 134.

Photos by Michael French

to upgrade its overall appearance.

But even more important to the Post's future than its space are the people whom its leaders want to occupy it. Larrain, a retired Army colonel, noted 76 percent of the Post's 130 members are older than 60, and the Legion wants to expand its membership. The nation's interest in its military waxes and wanes depending on the news cycle, he and the other leaders mused, but veterans never forget other veterans. Larrain wants the younger generation of veterans to know the American Legion is there for them.

"We have to have a voice," he said. "We have to have something that represents all veterans, to represent our interests."

Eckstein, the Post's finance officer, said the Legion has helped her find other veterans who, like her, have experienced PTSD related to their service, as well as given her a chance to do what all veterans have done, namely serve their communities. On that note, the Post's Adjutant, Patrick Bardel, a Marine veteran, said the organization gives purpose to his life.

"Our Post 134 is my primary volunteering focus," he said. "I'm retired, but I never planned to, or will, stop working. The Post is an outlet of my energy to have a place for veterans to get together and



Barry Larrain, a retired Army colonel, commands Post 134, and has been working with others to renovate the building.

put our collective energies out into the community."

Shah, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq, is a member of the Post's executive committee and wants the Post to become more integrated into the life of Concordia and the surrounding neighborhoods. He said, for example, the Post can facilitate meetings between school children and American Legion members so they can learn about veterans. He also noted he enjoys the camaraderie the Post provides him.

"It's given me a chance to connect with other veterans of different generations," he said.

To learn how to donate to American Legion Post 134, visit post134.com and click on "Donate." To learn more about becoming a member, contact the adjutant at patrickb@portlandrainbarrels.com.



Standing in front of the colorful mural that adorns Post 134, Robin Eckstein noted the organization wants to become more active in the Concordia area as well as surrounding neighborhoods.



CNews Editor Rob Cullivan is a veteran journalist, publicist and grant writer who has written about everything from rock 'n' roll to religion. He possesses a deep affection for writers and photographers who hit deadline.

From the Board

By Peter Keller, CNA Chair



Yes In My BackYard

We all know the acronym NIMBY (Not In My BackYard) and lately we’re starting to hear YIMBY, which, as you guessed, means “Yes In My BackYard.” Outside of any political connotations YIMBY may have, I like the sentiment.

When people learn that I volunteer for the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA), some may think I’m a “NIMBY” and that as CNA volunteers we are charged with policing our neighbors’ trash cans and paint colors. Well as most of you know, Concordia isn’t a suburban neighborhood with bylaws dictating decor.

While some of us may initially get involved with the CNA board because we don’t like something that’s happening in our backyards, we quickly learn there’s a lot more going on in this active neighborhood of ours.

To begin with, CNA is one of the few Portland neighborhood associations to print a monthly paper. Every month our paid staff and many volunteers put together what I think is a pretty great, hyper-local paper.

Concordia has hundreds of businesses, most small and some large, as well as the McMenamins Kennedy School, real schools, churches, community centers, and soon the University of Oregon’s Portland campus!

As an aside, we’re told UO will finalize their purchase of the Concordia University property in July 2022 and plan to start classes in summer/fall of 2023! [See Mac Larsen’s related story on Page 4.]

Speaking of the Kennedy School, did you know that through CNA’s Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) with McMenamins, CNA manages the community

I invite anyone who has any interest to join us in any capacity and help us continue to make Concordia one of Portland’s best neighborhoods.

room and the proceeds benefit the Concordia neighborhood? It’s how we pay for CNews, CNA events, etc. Further, Concordians have free access to the soaking pool at the Kennedy School. Pretty cool, right?

We’ll be putting together a GNA with the University of Oregon once they ink the deal to buy Concordia University. What would neighbors like to see in that agreement? What should we say “yes” to?

Finally, none of this would be happening without volunteers. CNA has a long track record of dedicated volunteers, including those who serve on the CNA board and countless volunteers who help with events and the CNews team or who simply attend meetings and participate in the neighborhood.

I invite anyone who has any interest to join us in any capacity and help us continue to make Concordia one of Portland’s best neighborhoods. We are in this together, and while we hear a lot of “NIMBY,” we also hear “YIMBY.” Whether you’re new to the neighborhood or a long-time resident, join us and bring your ideas for how you want to shape the future of Concordia, next month or five years from now.

Native Portlander Peter Keller has lived in Concordia since 1997. He runs a small marketing agency with partner Max, out of their home studio. He loves exploring outdoors with and without his dogs.

Concordia Neighborhood Association

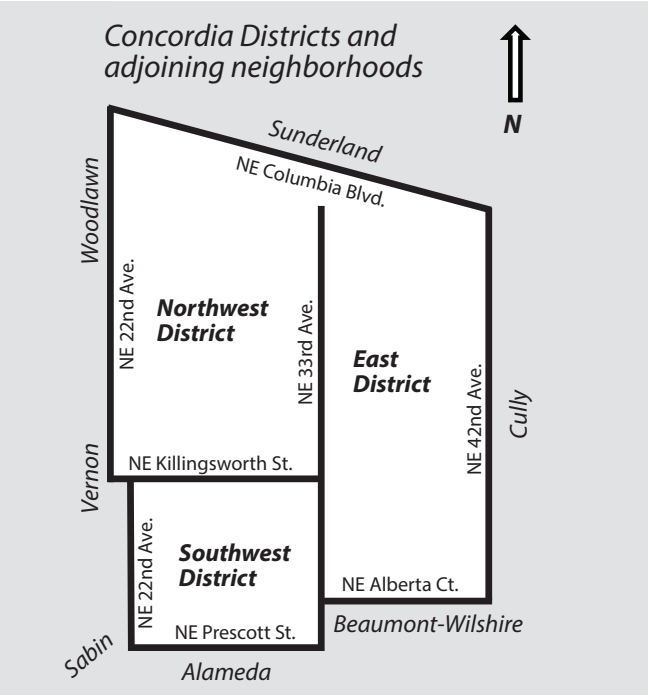
- Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, July 6, 7 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room with call in option, see box below, contact Peter Keller, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org
Future meeting dates: 8/3, 9/7, 10/5, 11/2
- General Membership Meeting**
Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room with call in option, see box below
Future meeting date: 11/2
- Social Committee**
If you’d like to volunteer to help plan fun, community-building events, contact Javier Puga-Phillips at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org.
- Media Team**
Monday, June 27, 6 p.m., venue: remote, see box below, contact Shawn Mihalik, MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Land Use & Transportation Committee**
Wednesday, July 20, 7 p.m., venue: remote, see box below, contact Ben Taylor at AL5@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Finance Committee**
Last Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, July 27, 7 p.m., venue: contact Heather Pashley, Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org
- Community Room Rental**
For info and scheduling, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/community-room-rental or contact Javier Puga-Phillips at CNARoomKennedy@gmail.com.

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SUBMISSIONS & ADVERTISING
Submissions to Concordia News: Deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the upcoming monthly publication. Contact CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org
Submissions to CNA website: Submit nonprofit news & events to MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org
Advertising: Gina Levine, CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.891.7178

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CNA meeting venues, how to attend
To learn how to attend CNA meetings in-person (when available) or remotely, visit:

- ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings
- Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX

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MOVIES NIGHTLY

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Concerts in the Park are BACK!

Ready, set, go! Start planning those picnic basket feasts.

Who: “Son de Cuba”, a Latin jazz/merengue/salsa group
When: Friday, July 15, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Alberta Park, 1905 NE Killingsworth St.

Come early and find a spot for your favorite blanket or chair!

For more details, see Pages 5 and 7.

American Legion

Area veterans share stories of military life

By Rob Cullivan
CNews Editor

Members of American Legion Post 134 have served in Vietnam, Iraq, Bosnia and Korea, among other places, and shared their experiences of military life and views on patriotism with CNews recently.

Post Commander Barry M. Larrain is a retired Army colonel who served in Vietnam, Okinawa, Korea, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Iraq. Among his duties, he worked as a Vietnamese linguist from 1968–69 and as senior military advisor to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad from 2009–10.

Larrain noted being a veteran has strengthened his commitment to the nation and its principles, and given him experiences that make him realize the impact his service made. For example, he said, he was deployed to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Dec. 1995, just after warring parties in the former Yugoslavia had signed the Dayton Peace Accords.

“My unit was one of the first to arrive in the city, which was badly damaged following years of war between Serbia and Bosnia,” he said. “I was with a few other soldiers moving through the city when a half dozen people saw us and started yelling, ‘USA, USA, USA.’ It was uplifting! During the war 10,000 Sarajevo residents were killed by artillery and mortar rounds, or sniper fire. These people were much more than grateful for our presence.”

With July 4 approaching, he added that it’s a holiday he wishes included reflection, not just celebration.

“I think July 4 should be a time for introspection, taking into account the complex history of the country, our successes and our failures, and a visceral appreciation for ‘There but for fortune, go I.’”

Peenesh Shah, a member of the Post’s executive committee, was an army sergeant who served in Iraq, and is now an assistant attorney general for the Oregon Dept. of Justice.

An aid station and evacuation medic in Baghdad, he had to respond to calls to evacuate casualties and also worked in a hospital emergency room. He said veterans are a diverse lot and he wished people would get to know more of them. Common misconceptions of veterans, he



Peenesh Shah, right, instructs a fellow soldier on how to initiate an IV in the field.

said, are “that we’re all the same, that we all share the same political views, that we’re all damaged in some way.” He noted that his own experience of military life was both uplifting and challenging and even contained moments of humor.

“One time a drill sergeant told me I was so bad at calling cadence that I needed to get a bowl of rhythm next time I was at the cafeteria,” he said.

Post Adjutant Patrick Bardel was a first lieutenant in the Marine Corps, from 1979–85 and served in various locations stateside. Serving has given him a sense of duty fulfilled, he said.

“I am proud to have been involved in the defense of our country,” Bardel said. “The Cold War was a risky period of our history, and as we are seeing in Ukraine, there are some leaders that only respect power.”

He noted veterans bring to civilian life various characteristics that are useful to society.

“There are many skills we learned in the military that translate well into the civilian world—leadership, organization, honesty—that aren’t recognized by employers who have no contact with vets.”

Bardel said serving in the military has given him a sense that the flag stands for more than one type of politics.



Patrick Bardel served in the Marine Corps.

ican Legion locally.

“I bring fresh perspectives and want the Legion to change and start meeting the needs and wants of new generations of veterans that no longer just want a bar to sit at,” she said.

The military was a mixed bag of experiences for her, she said, noting she liked the camaraderie but disliked “the sexual harassment and old-boys-club attitude of it.”

Life in a war zone brought the cost of citizenship home to her in a particularly

Story continued on Page 7



Barry Larrain served in Vietnam, Bosnia and Iraq.



Robin Eckstein served in Iraq.



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Ballmer Institute

UO campus to welcome first classes in 2023

By Mac Larsen
CNews Contributing Writer

The University of Oregon's Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health will welcome its first group of students to the former Concordia University campus in the summer of 2023.

UO representatives spoke at the

"We've heard the surrounding communities very much miss having students around."

— Randy Kamphaus

Concordia Neighborhood Association's General Meeting June 1 about the status of the university's purchase and development of the former Concordia University campus, 2811 NE Holman St.

UO Portland Vice Provost Jane Gordon, Assistant Vice President for Community Relations Matt Roberts, and Ballmer Institute Acting Executive Director Randy Kamphaus spoke about the Institute's goals and reach and answered questions from the CNA Board.

The Concordia property remains in escrow, and the sale is scheduled to go through in July. The new campus will open to students for hybrid, or in-person

as well as online, learning in the summer and fall of 2023. The Institute will welcome a prospective class of around 200 students to help meet the rising need for mental healthcare professionals for children and adolescents with behavioral disorders.

The university's board of trustees approved the purchase agreement March 14. UO officials have said that an ongoing legal dispute between the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, the property's owner, and HotChalk, a Concordia University education contractor, will have no effect on the pending sale of the campus. HotChalk is suing the LCEF for breach of contract, stating their argument hinges on the "significant value" of the Concordia campus and "LCEF's continuing pattern of diverting assets to elude bona fide creditors like HotChalk," according to reporting from the Portland Business Journal.

As for the Institute, officials said its programs will help the nation address a number of employment as well as health care concerns.

"The Ballmer Institute is an attempt to help close the workforce gap between adolescents and their behavioral health needs and their access to services," Kamphaus said.

UO views The Ballmer Institute as an investment in a healthcare sector in desperate need of support and resources, with less than 400,000 children's mental health professionals working in the United States right now. According to the CDC, almost 20% of children and adolescents under 18 "have a mental, emotional,



The former Concordia University campus will be home to University of Oregon programs, including the Ballmer Institute, in 2023. Photo by Gordon Riggs.

or behavioral disorder." However, only 20% of children facing these challenges ever receive attention from a trained mental health professional, or diagnosis or treatment. The Institute hopes to lead the nation in educating future doctors, counselors, therapists, and nurses in the field of children's behavioral health.

"We've had school districts express interest in hiring as many of our grads as we can produce," Kamphaus said, noting he and other institute leaders meet with Portland Public Schools weekly, to plan how the school district can provide opportunities for student healthcare professionals.

Roberts said that further community outreach with the Concordia neighborhood will be coordinated by UO and the university's architects.

"We've heard the surrounding communities very much miss having students around," Kamphaus said. "We couldn't have a better welcome mat for the Ballmer Institute and for any other UO programs at the downtown campus who may want to move out to that campus as well next year in the coming years."



Mac Larsen is a graduate student at the University of Oregon, pursuing a master's degree in journalism. He grew up in Concordia neighborhood and can be found frequently on Alberta Street, complaining about all the construction.

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- Music
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Hosted by Mildred Hall at 5138 NE 23rd Ave.
For details, visit: ConcordiaPDX.org/2022NightOut



Social Column

Concerts, pickups bring Concordia together

By Javier Puga-Phillips
CNA Social Committee Chair

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at our last neighborhood litter pickup! We had more than 80 volunteers, and our streets are cleaner today due to their efforts. We picked up about 1,000 pounds of trash from our streets for a total of 10,000 pounds since we started these projects. We still have work to do, and our next bi-monthly litter pickup is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 6. Please reach out if you'd like to participate [See box on Page 7 for details].

Summer Free-for-All

This year the CNA, in conjunction with Portland Parks & Recreation, is bringing back concerts in the park. On Friday, July 15, we are delighted to have "Son de Cuba," a Latin jazz/merengue/salsa group to celebrate with us [See

related story on Page 7]. The concert takes place at Alberta Park, 1905 NE Killingsworth St. Music starts at 6:30 p.m., and we invite neighbors to set up in the park starting at 5:30 p.m.

Make sure to bring a blanket, chairs or something to sit on at the park. We will have three food vendors. However, bringing food/snacks is highly recommended. Please make sure to bring your beverage of choice, and alcoholic beverages will not be sold at the park.

We will have a CNA table at the concert, so please stop by and say hello. We'd like to hear from our neighbors and any and all feedback is appreciated.

If the concert needs to be canceled, we will announce the cancellation through our Instagram account @CNAPDX. Cause of cancellations are based on the policies and guidance of Portland Parks & Recreation and include inclement weather, rain, thunder, lightning, smokey

air and/or public safety concerns at or near the park.

Sundays on Going

On Sundays from June 12 until Aug. 28, BikeLoud PDX is helping coordinate "Mini Sunday Parkway" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The slow roll bike ride will start at noon from Northeast Sixth Avenue and Going Street to Kunamokwst Park on Cully (5200 NE Alberta St.). Some mini block parties will be located along the ride.

For more information, visit BikeLoudPDX.org/Sundays-on-Going

Mildred Hall

We'd like to welcome Mildred Hall to Concordia. Matt & Yuka Hollingsworth are the owners of the renovated intimate space for weddings, celebrations, and other gatherings. Mildred Hall, 5138 NE 23rd Ave., has been part of our neighborhood since 1916 back when Northeast 23rd Avenue used to be Mildred Street.

Yard Sales

Thank you to all the neighbors who have reached out for the yard sales. However, we need more participation to make it a success. Please reach out to me if you're interested in taking part. We are looking at hosting this event from Friday to Sunday Sept. 2-4. We will ask for a \$15 donation from participants, and this money will be used for promoting the event.

Bar Cala

Bar Cala, located at the old station space on Northeast 27th Avenue and

Alberta Street (the pink building), opens this month.

Bar Cala offers an elevated and casual experience of Concordia. The open space features live palm trees, pastel and neon vibes, and an expansive outdoor patio just in time for summer.

The menu features authentic flavors in shareable plates from the crudo to the bistec. The cocktail menu features craft creations like "Tepache Mode" and "Mama Coco."

Join us!

Finally, make sure to follow us on Instagram @CNAPDX, and use #SocialConcordiaPDX to get a shoutout and for us to keep up with the rapid changes in our neighborhood. And check us out at Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX.

The social committee always needs volunteers for events. For more information, write Social@ConcordiaPDX.org or call/text 503.343.5561.

News from the NET

Set Aside Some Water for Earthquakes, Disasters

By Erin E. Cooper
Concordia/Vernon/Woodlawn
Neighborhood Emergency Team

In the event of a large earthquake, or other natural disaster, the water that normally runs to your home with the turn of a tap could be unavailable. We've all been thirsty, which means we all know how important it will be to have access to clean drinking water in an emergency. But how much? And what to keep it in? And what are some alternative sources of water? I'll answer your water-storage questions in this column as well as in next month's column.

The answer to how much water to store is, on the surface, an easy one. A little water is better than no water, and a lot of water is better than a little water. Under normal conditions an adult needs about a gallon of water each day, half to drink and half for cooking, handwashing, and other needs. We can hope that within three days, there will be emergency services providing things like water to residents, so your first goal should be a minimum of three gallons per person in your household. Don't forget to add some for your pets!

However, consider a situation after an earthquake, when roads may not be drivable. If you can collect water from a centralized location, you'll have to carry that water back to your home, or wherever you're staying. If you have more water on hand, you can save your family time and effort when you'll want it most.

One potential source of water already in your home is your water heater. Most water heaters hold between 30 and 50 gallons of drinkable water, if it's intact and accessible after an earthquake.



Erin E. Cooper is a marine biologist living in Woodlawn. She spends a lot of time thinking about disasters and has been a NET member for many years. Contact her at OceanListener@gmail.com.

Make sure it's secured to the wall with two metal bands, or you'll have an unfortunate puddle instead of drinking water.

Stay tuned for next month, when we'll discuss what kinds of storage containers to use!

Last Thursday is Back!

Alberta Street Last Thursday will host local arts & crafts vendors, performers, music, events & other happenings.

#LastThursday
Alberta Street
Portland, Oregon

Open and free to the public!



Find the Concordia Neighborhood Booth on June 29th, July 28th and August 25th from 4-9pm at the Black United Fund parking lot and enter a raffle to win a \$40 gift card from Frock Boutique!

CONCORDIA NEWS... THE place to write!



"I enjoy writing for the Concordia News because I believe everyone has a story. I delight in being continually amazed. What's your story?"

Marsha Sandman,
CNA Media Team
MarshaJSandman@gmail.com

Choose the subjects you want to cover - from events to new businesses, schools to community issues and so much more.

Interested?

Visit ConcordiaPDX.org/CNewsSubmissions or contact Rob Cullivan, CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org



Javier Puga-Phillips holds the At Large 4 position on the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) Board of Directors, manages rentals of the McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room and chairs the CNA Social Committee. He is a real estate professional locally, and he is a published author and motivational speaker in Latin America and Spain.



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Concordia Art Works

Resident created ‘Dream Boy’ to adorn street

By Maquette Reverts
Alberta Art Works

What to do when you retire? Sharon Wagner was faced with just that problem seven years ago when she left the U.S. Forest Service and decided to learn to work with clay.

Drawn to the sensual feel and pliability of the material, she focused on hand building rather than using a clay wheel. Although she has created functional wares, she prefers to create sculptural works.

Wagner lives on a bike path, with her house located on the corner of Alberta Court and NE 37th Avenue. Her yard is alive with windsocks and whirligigs, and in the tree near the road is a life size figure of a boy made out of clay

Using photos of her friend’s twin boys, Wagner made “Dream Boy” in four clay pieces: the head, two halves of the torso plus a leg and a backpack that sits at the foot of the tree. The pieces were created at the Multnomah Art Center and assembled after the last firing.

The work took her a year to finish with months needed to dry the clay before it could go into the kiln to be fired. One bubble left in the clay or even residual moisture could cause the clay to break or even explode when fired.

“One of the biggest challenges of making Dream Boy had to do with the shape of the tree and the shrinkage of the clay,” she said.

The clay she used shrinks almost 11%

“The public space between our houses and the streets is ours to take care of for the good of everyone.”

– Sharon Wagner

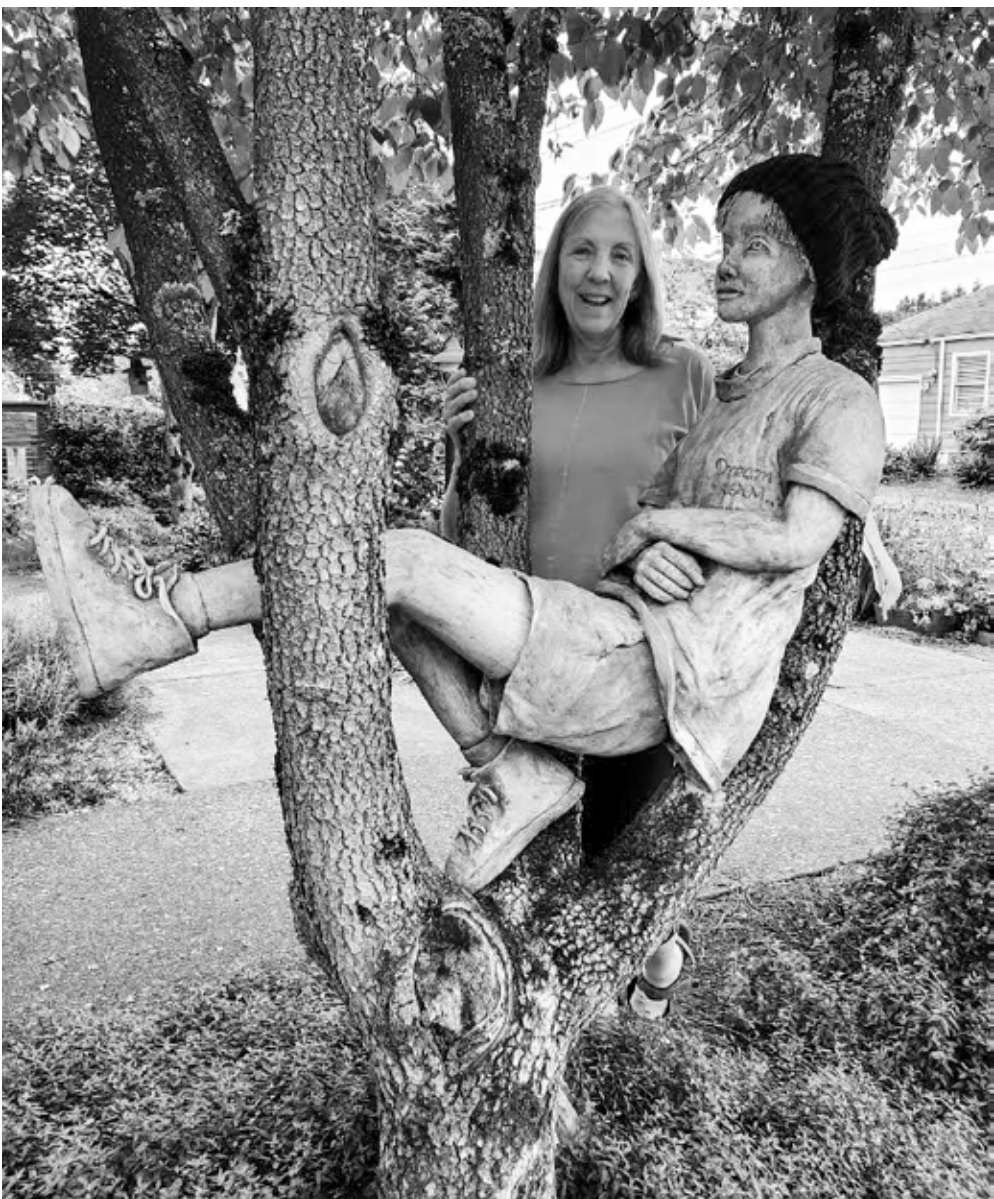
from wet clay after it is fired, making it a real challenge to ensure the work would sit perfectly into the crux of the tree.

Through her big front window, Sharon can watch as people enjoy her artwork.

“The public space between our houses and the streets is ours to take care of for the good of everyone. This is my way of taking care of it.”



Michel Reeverts, aka Maquette, holds a master of arts degree in art education and serves Alberta Art Works as director and Alberta Street Gallery as a board member. She is also a practicing artist. Contact her at Maquette@AlbertaArtWorks.org



Sharon Wagner sculpted “Dream Boy” out of clay and placed it in a tree in front of her home. Photo by Maquette Reverts

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The CNA Annual Yard Sale is back!

Thank you to all the neighbors who have reached out for the yard sales.

We need your help! If you would like to participate in planning this popular event, please contact Javier Puga-Phillips at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org or call/text 503.343.5561.

We are looking at hosting this event from Friday to Sunday, Sept. 2-4.



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July 15 Concert

Son of Cuba leads dance outfit Son de Cuba

By Rob Cullivan
CNews Editor

Son de Cuba blends a variety of musical styles, from salsa to Latin jazz, in its high energy shows.
Contributed photo

The son of a Cuban drummer, Havana native Tony Gonzalez grew up immersed in his homeland’s music. “He taught me the basics of Cuban drumming,” Gonzalez said of his father, who still lives in the island nation. “Cuban drums, cowbell, bongos, clave. It’s kind of like having a conversation with the drums. With the different tonalities, when you play a scale on the instruments, it’s like you’re talking to the drums.”

Gonzalez manages and drums for Portland’s Son de Cuba, a sextet that will perform a free concert at 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 15, in Alberta Park. Son de Cuba plays a wide variety of danceable music, include salsa, timba, son, merengue, boleros, cumbia, bachata and Latin jazz.

The concert is part of the City of Portland’s Summer “Free For All” entertainment series. Other events in the Concordia neighborhood include



CNews Editor Rob Cullivan is a veteran journalist, publicist and grant writer who has written about everything from rock ‘n’ roll to religion. He possesses a deep affection for writers and photographers who hit deadline.

“Tiger Tiger: A Celebration of Our API (Asian and Pacific Islander) Community,” featuring Joe Kye & The Givers, June Magnolia, and SURRIJA at 6 p.m. Sunday, July 17, in Fernhill Park as well as a showing of the Native American movie “Smoke Signals” at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 23, in Fernhill.

For more information on the Free For All series, visit portland.gov/parks/arts-culture/sffa.

Driveway dancing

When the weather is nice, Son de Cuba rehearses in the driveway of Gonzalez’s Milwaukie home, and the group consists of three other Cuban natives: Nelson Morales on vocals, piano and bass piano; Geisy Almanza on vocals; and her husband Ramon Brizuela Martinez on saxophone, flute and vocals; as well as Jackson Coffey, an Oregon born drummer, and Chilean native Freddy Vilches on vocals and minor percussion, including maracas.

Far from annoying his neighbors, Son de Cuba has made Gonzalez a popular character. The band’s driveway practice sessions actually draw folks who set up lawn chairs to listen to the band on the sidewalk in front of his home, Gonzalez says.

“The neighbors see me and say, ‘Hey!



When is the next rehearsal?” he said with a chuckle. “Actually, the kids start dancing, and they create a community.”

Gonzalez, who emigrated from Cuba to the United States 16 years ago, formed the band in 2015 with fellow immigrant Morales, and noted the group’s members are all veterans of various Latin music ensembles. Fans of Cuban music should note the band includes “El Cuarto de Tula (Tula’s Room),” the “national anthem

of son music” in its sets, he added. Son was invented in the 19th century and combines Spanish and African music.

“Since four of the band members are Cubans, we have roots in Latin, African, and jazz rhythms,” Gonzalez said. “We blend this vast knowledge of different beats together in classic and modern Latin songs, exuding energy and happiness. Dancing is encouraged. Who knows, we may join you!”

Veterans share stories

Continued from Page 3

difficult way, she added. “I saw my friend in the hospital after he had been blown up in a roadside bomb,” she said. “He said it wasn’t worth it. Almost losing his life and he said it wasn’t worth it. I think about that to this day knowing he has to live with disabilities for the rest of his life.”

Eckstein said the American Legion should continue to expand its historic mission to assist veterans like her and those with whom she’s served. “The American Legion has done a lot of important lobbying in Congress for rights and benefits for veterans and that work is extremely important.”

Concordia Neighborhood Litter Pickup

What: Join SOLVE and your neighbors for a litter pickup in the Concordia Neighborhood.
When: Saturday, August 6th, 9:00 a.m. – noon
Where: Meet in Alberta Park, NE Ainsworth & 22nd
Registration: Pre-registration is required! Please sign up ahead of time and fill out the volunteer waiver form:
SOLVEoregon.org/opportunity/a0C8W00000V9M8x



Questions? Contact Gina Levine at CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org or call 503.891.7178.

More info at: ConcordiaPDX.org/NeighborhoodLitterPickUp






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Sojourn Kids Week

July 11 – 13, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Sojourn Kids Week (VBS) is an interactive week full of creativity and fun! Kids will learn about their design and purpose.

Kids Week is for children 5 years old through sixth grade and free for all!

More details and registration: sojournpdx.org/vbs

Sojourn Church – A Neighborhood Church

sojournpdx.org
[Facebook.com/sojournpdx](https://www.facebook.com/sojournpdx)
Instagram: @sojournpdx
info@sojournpdx.org





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9 Fused Creative presents
afterglow
a Post-Pride Extravaganza

14 **SCIENCE ON TAP**
How Do Scientists
See Black Holes?

15 **JESSE COLIN
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16 **Celtic Light
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presents
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19 Chamber Music
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June 4 Neighborhood Litter Pickup event



More than 80 volunteers participated in the June 4 SOLVE Litter Pickup. Folks collected about 1,000 pounds of trash from the Concordia neighborhood, starting at Alberta Park. Photos by John McSherry.


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Community events calendar

Thursday, July 7, 2—4 pm
“IT’S ALL ABOUT US”
NORTHEAST VILLAGE PDX
Monthly group offers opportunity for people to talk unabashedly about themselves and share life stories as much as they like, provided the take turns of course. You can bring photos or memorabilia or share songs or artwork that have a personal connection. Meets first Thursday of the month at Jon Dickman’s home. Address available upon registration. Jon supplies chairs but additional chairs are always welcome.
Details: To register, visit nevillepdx.org, then click on “Calendar” and then click on July 7. Call 503.895.2750.



Tuesday, July 12, 7—9:30 pm
**RACE TALKS: OPPORTUNITIES
FOR DIALOGUE**
Location: Kennedy School Gymnasium, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.
Series deals with race in Oregon, both historically and up to the present time, to provide learning experiences that support the development of racial identity and sensitivity. Each month, Kennedy School hosts a presentation on a different topic of ethnicity and racial elements in Oregon history. \$5 - \$25 suggested donation. All ages welcome.
Details: mcmenamins.com/events/

Saturday, July 16, 2—5pm
**ALDER COMMONS AFRO MADE
POP UP MARKET**
Location: 4212 NE Prescott St.
Come support Black-owned businesses at our market in the parking lot. **Details:** app.aldercommons.org

Saturday, July 23, 11 am to 5 pm
**ALDER COMMONS NATIVE MADE
POP UP MARKET**
Support Native businesses. Co-sponsored by Native American Youth and Family Center.
Details: app.aldercommons.org, nayapdx.org

Saturdays 10 am to noon
Mondays 4—6 pm
ST. CHARLES FOOD PANTRY
Location: 5310 NE 42nd Ave.
“Shop” at the food pantry Mondays & Saturdays this month, or request contactless delivery of food boxes. The 9.53-square-mile service area is 28th to 82nd & the Columbia River to Mason, including Dignity Village.
Details: stcharlespdx.org/food-help.html, svdppdxsc@outlook.com

Saturday, July 23, 30
FOOD PANTRY
Location: 5209 NE 22nd Ave.
Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church hosts its food pantry the last two Saturdays each month with restrictions & strict adherence to physical distancing procedures.
Details: sharonsda.net, office@SharonChurch.comcastbiz.net

Community calendar items
Admission to events is free unless otherwise noted. Priority is afforded to local events sponsored by – or which benefit – local nonprofit organizations. Submit information to CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org by the 10th of the month preceding the event.