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Village VOICE
March 2021

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JapaneseGarden.org

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THE END IS IN SIGHT

Daylight in Portland, Oregon on March 1st will last 12 hours and 9 minutes. By the spring equinox, a mere 19 days later, the day will be over an hour longer.

Some of us *need* to know that. We need to know that this interminable winter, which started oh-so-long-ago last March, is indeed coming to an end. That this time of darkness and uncertainty, of separation and fear, will truly pass into memory.

Already, there is cause for optimism. Despite glitches and shortages, frozen webpages and dropped calls, the COVID vaccine rollout continues, with thousands getting their shots every week. Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson together estimate delivery of over 600 million doses nationwide by the end of July.

There is reason to hope—if enough are vaccinated—that

we might be able to gather with family and friends again by fall, with joyous reunions to come at the holidays.

In the meantime, we must “keep on keeping on” by remaining diligent about wearing our masks, washing our hands, and keeping socially distant. We must do what we can to help everyone we know to get their vaccinations.

And we must also continue to be there for each other, for our friends and neighbors and family. To reach out with calls and Zoom and FaceTime. To connect with Book Groups and Mens Lunches, with Coffee Hours and Movie Clubs.

To leave no one behind, now that we are so very close to reaching the end of our frightful journey.

*By Peg Farrell
Editor/Member*



DOZENS OF EVERS SAY “THANK YOU”

You’ve all heard the stories: people spending countless hours on the phone or online in fruitless and frustrating attempts to get a vaccination appointment. Our Village has been blessed with several angels who generously have spent innumerable hours helping our Members to get signed up.

To Jenny Rockwood, Cary Hixon, and Jim O’Connor, we say a special “thank you and bless you!” To the many others who have stepped up to help, “thank you, too!”

If you are experiencing difficulties in getting a vaccination appointment or have one but need a ride to get to it, please contact the office for assistance.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Artistic souls in Eastside Village have had little opportunity to share their craft with others this past year—whether it is pottery, textiles, watercolors, oils, or woodcarving.

We're happy to report that, beginning on Thursday, March 11th, you will be able to join a different EV artist/maker each month during a Zoom "Happy Hour with Artistic Flair." You will get a glimpse into the creative works and processes of a few of your fellow EV Members.

Our first artist, Sharon Grady, will share some of her original textile portraits of the Colorado Rockies and other natural wonders.

If you would like to show some of your creations or simply sit back and appreciate our artistic colleagues, please join us. Contact Judy Ringerson to get on our schedule.

*By Judy Ringerson
EV Member*



2021 EV PLANT SALES COMING UP

Hoping to revitalize your yard or get some veggies planted? Mark your calendars now for our first plant sales of 2021: Saturday, April 24th and June 5th. Like the wildly successful sales held last year, they will benefit the Oregon Food Bank POBC Pantry. Watch for more details in later Newsletters.

If you have plants to contribute to the sales, now is a good time to start your seeds and put your starts in pots so they'll be well-rooted at the time of the sale. For those interested in contributing yard art or other outdoor garden-related items, or if you have questions about plants or need pots, please contact Ann Gaffke.

*By Ann Gaffke
EV Member*

KAYE VELDHIJSEN: TEACHER / TRAVELER

For Kaye Veldhuisen, finding Eastside Village quite literally changed the course of her life. A little over a year ago, Kaye was getting ready to sell her home and move to Hood River, where she had put money down on a retirement home. Many of her Portland friends had moved away or passed away, and she wanted to be closer to her daughter. She said, "I was actively moving on." Then she attended an informational presentation by the Villages at her neighborhood association meeting—coincidentally, its last in-person meeting of 2020.

What she learned at that meeting convinced Kaye to give Eastside Village a try. After joining the organization, she reached out for some simple services such as help with her computer, help learning to use Zoom, and help with a minor plumbing problem. Most important, she called the office and asked if Jenny could find her a walking companion. Soon she was walking twice a week with Judy Ringerson and was motivated to walk even on the days she was alone. Kaye said, "I can't tell you how much she's meant to me."



Kaye loves word puzzles, gardening, politics, woodworking, vintage typewriters, and travel. Her wanderlust was kindled in high school when she and three friends drove out of their small Nebraska town and explored the southwestern, southeastern, and northeastern United States during their summer vacations. Kaye went on to become a preschool teacher—her profession and her passion. She has taught in six states—in small towns as well as in Billings, MT; Eugene; and Portland.

Continued on page 8.

MEMBER PROFILE

A MESSAGE FROM JENNY ROCKWOOD

Jenny Rockwood, EV's amazing office manager, has asked us to pass along this message to our Members.

On Valentine's Day, a brave delivery driver made it through the snow to deliver beautiful flowers and chocolates to me from the wonderful Eastside Village Valentine Angels! I'm not sure who is responsible for this act of kindness — but I do so appreciate the love sent my way.

I also received many lovely cards from members mailed to me at the office. You all have certainly sent the love my direction this Valentine's Day!

Many thanks, Jenny



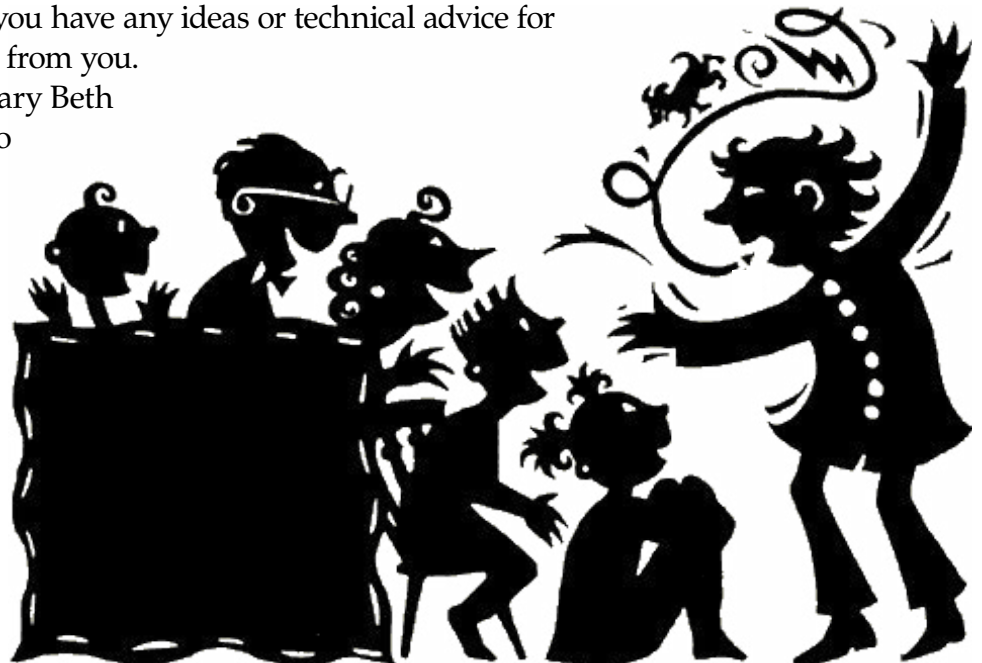
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CALLING ALL STORYTELLERS

We *all* have life stories to tell, and by the time you reach our age, some of us have some truly amazing ones! A few of your EV friends are hoping to launch a program where Members would be interviewed by other Members, with the recorded interview later presented via a Zoom gathering.

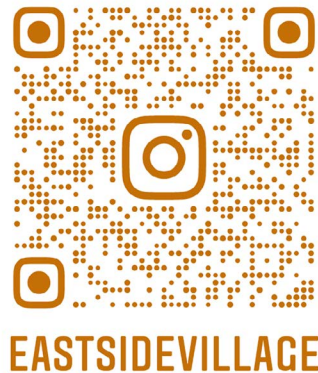
Are you interested in sharing a story from your life? Or maybe you'd prefer to be our next Merv Griffin? Would you like to be the contact person for the Story Telling Program? If you have any ideas or technical advice for us, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Mary Beth Young if you'd like to be part of this fun adventure.



HAVE YOU SEEN US ON INSTAGRAM?

For about a month now, we've been posting photos and videos on the Eastside Village's Instagram page: sharing virtual events and general information with Village members and building awareness of our community in the Eastside Portland neighborhoods where we live.



It's easy to follow us on Instagram and share our posts with your family, friends, and neighbors! Just scan this QR code with your smartphone to view our Instagram feed, or share the code with others.

What if you don't have a smartphone? Go to the Eastside Village PDX website [eastsidevillage.org], select the "News" tab, and drop down to "Follow us on Instagram." There's also a link on our Facebook homepage [[facebook.com/EastsideVillagePDX](https://www.facebook.com/EastsideVillagePDX)].

If you like one of our posts, click on the heart icon below it. If you want to comment, click on the cartoon balloon and type away. And don't forget to click the paper airplane to share the post with others.

The more we use Instagram, Facebook, and other social media, the more people will learn about Eastside Village and join up or volunteer. And keep sending us your photos and notices of events; they are so appreciated!

*By Liz Dally
EV Member*

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NE VILLAGE SEEKS NEW OFFICE MANAGER

Northeast Village PDX is a non-profit organization that values community, promotes a variety of activities to encourage connections among all Villagers, and provides volunteer services that enable members to continue to live at home and remain active as they age. It serves residents of 17 NE Portland neighborhoods and is one of a network of ten similar villages in the Portland metro area and one on the Oregon coast.

They are now seeking a new part-time Office Manager, as their current Office Manager is moving on to a new role in their Village.

For more information and a complete job description, go to the NE Village website and click on the "Job Opening" button [t.ly/IceQ].

This position will remain open until filled, but applications received by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 5th, will be given first consideration for screening and interviews.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest and resume (including references) to Todd Coward, c/o officemanager@nevillage.org. If you have any questions, you can also leave a message for Todd at the NE Village office (503-997-5788).

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After her children were grown, however, Kaye realized she could combine teaching with her love of travel. She sold her house and took a temporary teaching assignment in Wounded Knee, SD. She described her time on the reservation as a “wonderful, unforgettable year. I learned so much. It was so much more than I ever hoped it would be.”

From there, she took international teaching positions in Puerto Vallarta, Tokyo, and Malaysia, with a side trip to Borneo. She made wonderful friends along the way and has stayed in touch with many of them, even attending their weddings abroad.

Kaye returned to the U.S. in 1997 because she missed her five grandchildren; she has stayed in close touch with them as they

have grown into adulthood. She works to maintain her relationship with them, using lots of email, phone calls, animated e-cards, and little gifts for no reason. She said, “I make it my priority, and it’s paid off.”

Kaye has also continued traveling, often with her daughter and granddaughters. She had a big family trip planned to Amsterdam before the pandemic shutdown. She said, “The trip is not canceled—just postponed.”

Because she didn’t get to jump into EV as she had wanted to initially, Kaye looks forward to meeting more of the EV community after the pandemic is over. As she has become more comfortable using Zoom, Kaye has joined some Friday morning coffee hours and hopes to join other social activities. She said, “I look forward to meeting the people I read and hear about.” She has become an active proponent of EV to her friends and neighbors, inspiring at least one to look for a Village for his mother in New Jersey. Kaye said of her experience with EV, “It seemed to offer so many possibilities that I couldn’t quite see on my own.”

*By Carlotta Richard
EV Member*

TIS THE SEASON FOR DAYTRIPPIN’

Like many of us, you’re probably more than ready to get out of the house and *go somewhere!* But until everyone has been vaccinated, you still aren’t comfortable with the idea of hotels and restaurants and all the other aspects of travel.

TravelOregon [t.ly/usil] has got you covered with a host of ideas for interesting day trips.

When was the last time you went to Lake Oswego or Willamette Falls? Do you know where Tsuru Island is and why it’s worth a trip? Sure, everyone knows about Portland’s bridges; but have you actually walked across Tilikum Bridge yet?

They’ve even got a “Food Cart Finder” [t.ly/69K7] that will let you search Portland’s 200+ food carts for just the right dumpling or tikka masala to take with you on your day’s excursion.

Go on, get out! It’ll do you good.

My JOURNEY FROM THERE TO HERE

When my wife, Anna, and I joined the Village a couple of years or so ago, I was uncomfortable about the volunteering program. I was afraid I'd feel like a mooch if I asked for services or a good-deed-doer if I should ever give them.

A couple of times this last year, when an EV Volunteer helped us, I was self-conscious: We can afford to pay for this, I thought.

Then this past week I filled out the papers to become a Volunteer myself.

Let me tell you about my journey from there to here.

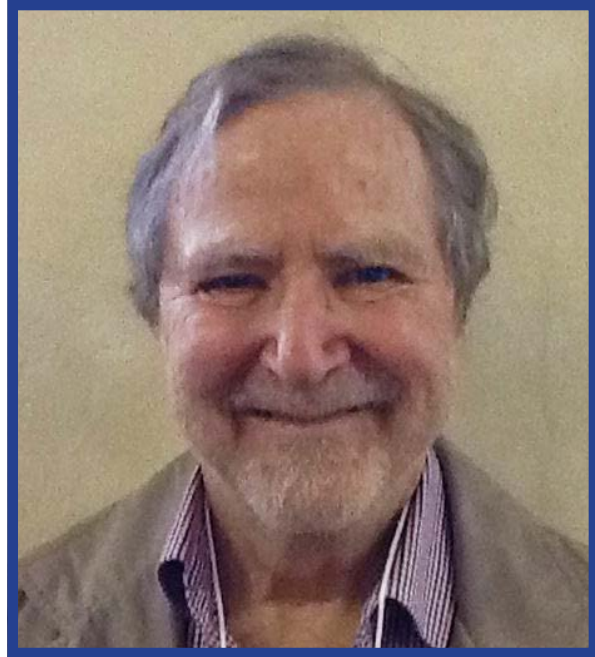
About a year and a half ago, we signed up to buy an apartment that was being built in a (congregate) retirement home. But when it was finished, we had second thoughts. We love our home and were grieving as we signed the listing papers with our realtor.

And then it became clear: we really *didn't* want to move. The realtor and the retirement home both graciously allowed us to back out, and so there we were.

Now we had some time to think about what we had seen as the advantages of living in a retirement home, and how we could replicate those in our home. There were a number of things—such as putting in grab bars, etc.—that we have and will continue to address. But the biggest loss, we felt, would be that of having a supportive community.

What we had envisioned having was a group of people similarly aged who we knew intimately and who supported each other as, together, we faced the challenges arising from old age and death.

And then we found Eastside Village.



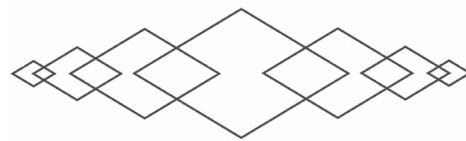
I see now that this community is not something I can just sign up for. I will have to give *to* it before I can be fully a part *of* it.

So here I am volunteering.

I want to be there for others who will become more vulnerable as they age. I—and the other Member/Volunteers—will be laying the groundwork for when it is our turn.

And in doing so, I anticipate that I will be creating for myself a community that will sustain me right *now* as well as when it is my turn to ask for help.

By Eric Roost
EV Member



CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2021

R = Register online or with office. **MV** = Attendance limited to Eastside Village Members or Volunteers.

Please note: Most Eastside Village events will be held via the Zoom online virtual meeting platform. See the Events Calendar for each event's link.

1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

Happy Hour

(MV) Share stories and chat with fellow EV folks. 5-6 PM.

3, 17

EV Movie Club

(R, MV) We watch a movie individually, then talk about it together. Join us!! Check the online Calendar for specifics. 3-5 PM.

5, 12, 19, & 26

Coffee Hour

(MV) Join your friends and neighbors for coffee and conversation. 9:30-10:30 AM.

9

EV Book Groups

(R, MV) Come share a conversation as we discuss *The Orphan Collector* by Ellen Marie Wiseman. 10-Noon.

11

EV Council Meeting

(R, MV) Please contact the office if you wish to attend. 10-Noon.

13

Virtual EV 101

(R) Join a virtual introduction to Eastside Village. Please sign in with the office to get the link. 10-Noon.

18

Men's Lunch w/ Adult Beverages

(R, MV) Join the EV men for a hike/walk, bag lunch, and socially-distant conversation. 12-2 PM.

23

The Joe Hickerson Story & Song Hour

(R, MV) EV member Joe Hickerson is a lecturer, researcher, and performer. Join Joe for this fun hour of story & song! (Please see the online Calendar for more information.) 3-4 PM.

27

EV Climate Crisis Crew

(R, MV) Join us to share ideas, from small and energizing changes in how we live our lives, to what we can do together. 12-2 pm.