

# EQ The Elizabeth Lofts

## Quarterly Newsletter

### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

#### TOM LAVOIE – RETIRING?!?!?

Tom LaVoie, our long-time Community Manager and very first Concierge, is looking forward to his next chapter.

#### OPEN YOUR EYES

Larry, on a PDX walk-about, revisits some urban murals and discovers some hidden beauties.

#### GOODWILL HUNTING 2.0

Spruce up your wardrobe, reuse, and save. Faith has some excellent thrifting treasures, ideas, and tips.

#### THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS

An informative good read exploring the Black Migration in the US between 1915 and the 1970's. Chris jumps in and finds the experience both educational and challenging.

#### GET TO KNOW OUR STAFF

Robert re-joins the Elizabeth concierge staff on weekends! Hooray!!

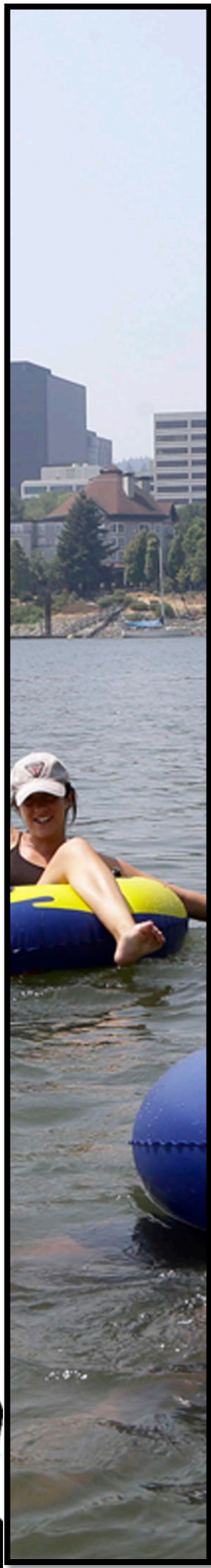
#### AROUND TOWN

Ideas and activities, around the city and right at home, to keep you busy and entertained.

#### READER'S RESPONSES

July 2021

Editing by Paula McGee, Design & Layout by Michelle Heckman





## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to EQ 8!

Just today I put on a jacket I hadn't worn in a while to find a pocket full of latex gloves that brought me back once again to the beginning. There was no nostalgia, it was more like the memory of removing a bandage or safety jacket.

I'm not a first responder, but I was asked to be vigilant and caring and nonjudgmental. I adapted, fell short, got up again and tried harder. We won't forget these days; at EQ we have been talking about what the future looks like here at our home. Parties in the Plaza? Sourdough baking classes in the Community Room? Music? More EQ Talks? Friends reveling? I think that is the best notion - to be friends and make this as wonderful a place to live as we can. And post Covid, remember wishes can come true.

*As we reopen the city, we say well done!*

Don't forget all EQ's are available on the [website](#) with some archival footage of our EQ Talks presentations. Go to Community in the upper right and in the dropdown menu, select Newsletter.

Till we turn 9, be kind to each other.

**Bob Garsha**

for the **EQ** Staff

July 2021

*Calling All Writers and EQ Readers!*

*Do you have a favorite restaurant in the Pearl? How about writing a restaurant review to share with your neighbors? Did you take a vacation recently? Some of us travel-starved Elizabethans would love to share that adventure through your photos and description of the trip. Maybe you have a good joke (must be clean). The EQ team would love to share the experience of contributing to EQ. This is our community, and we welcome you to share your interests and experiences. Maybe you have a suggestion for a compelling article and would like to collaborate with one of our staff. All are welcome!*

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# TOM LAVOIE – RETIRING !?!?!?

By Paula McGee

Tom LaVoie, who has worked at and for the Elizabeth Lofts since it first opened in 2005, is retiring from CMI and as our community manager at the end of July. Last year Tom was diagnosed with cancer, and despite successfully enduring some very difficult treatment, he did his best to continue to support us (with help from the rest of the CMI team).

Tom has worked tirelessly on our behalf and anyone who attends Board meetings knows he has a wealth of historical knowledge about our building and community. Many residents have known Tom through his varied career with the Elizabeth, but some of you may not know him at all. We wanted to share a bit of Tom's story, bid him a fond farewell and a fun and fulfilling retirement, and express our deep gratitude for his support and guidance over the past 16 years.



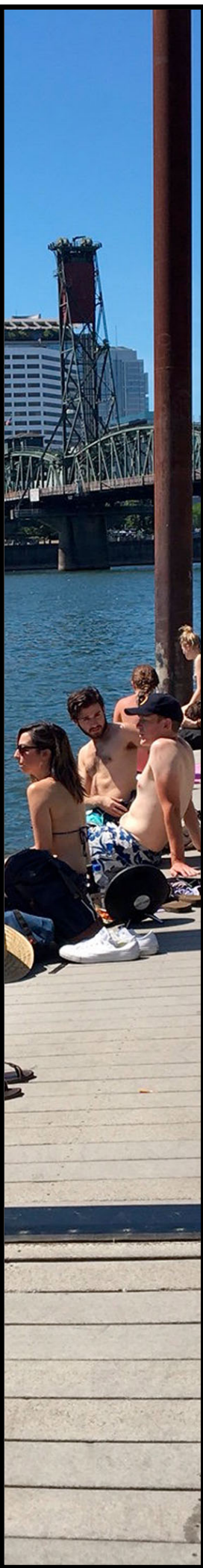
**You were the first concierge at the Elizabeth Lofts back in 2005, is that right? When did you move to CMI as a community manager? And when did you begin managing our building for CMI?**

I was hired as the first Concierge when the building opened in February 2005. I was part of the team that commissioned the building with the contractor and developer and marketing team. I learned the building from the ground up as part of the commissioning.

When the Eliot Tower opened in early 2006, CMI asked me to oversee the hiring and training of the Concierge and Porter staff for that building, and at that time I became supervisor of the Elizabeth staff as well, while retaining the title of Head Concierge. In August 2006 I was promoted to portfolio manager and moved to the CMI office, and the Elizabeth became the first property in my Community Manager portfolio.

**What is involved in the commissioning of a building like ours?**

When a new building is brought on-line, all of the systems need to be inspected and tested. This ensures that the building is operating according to the design specifications and the system Operating and Maintenance manuals. This must take place prior to the contractor handing the building over to the developer, and we were involved because the developer would, in turn, hand the building over to the owners. We watched the elevators get tested and certified, the boilers brought online and run through their phases, HVAC for the common



areas on the roof (it was February!), fire systems, sprinkler systems and the garage gates as well. I received quite the education those first few weeks!

**We know the neighborhood is going through some difficult times with the pandemic and the homeless crisis. What other notable changes have you observed in the building and the neighborhood during the past 15 years?**

Growth! There have been so many new buildings in the Pearl that it is almost unrecognizable from 2005. Of course, the hotel across the street is the biggest change and caused perhaps the most anxiety for the owners on the east side of the building. The most reassuring aspect of the Elizabeth is that the residents have continued to be some of the best condominium owners in town! There is so much more positive interaction with the Concierge staff than any other building.

I believe that the layout of the lobby with the elevators and the desk in such close proximity helps to promote the positive interaction, but the fabulous staff has a lot to do with that as well! Also, the collegiality of the Board is so important to note. There were years early on when the Board was fractious and meetings were tense and went on for hours! There were times that I asked myself why I had chosen this profession! The current Board is to be commended for their hard work and efforts to maintain an atmosphere of cooperation while maintaining the highest level of security and livability for the owners. Serving on the Board is thankless work, and I hope that all of the owners appreciate their hard work.

**Retirement is on the horizon. What are your plans? Do you have any projects or hobbies you are looking forward to pursuing?**

Some of you know that I officiate at weddings, and that will certainly continue. Nancy and I enjoy wine tasting, and perhaps our trips will extend beyond the Willamette Valley. We both have travelled in France and Italy, so after Nancy retires, we will plan an extended adventure through both countries, as we each have favorite places we want the other to experience. My hobby of machine embroidery and fabric art will also take up a lot of my day-to-day time, and an Etsy shop is certainly in my future.

**CMI has had an active role in collecting contributions for the Sunshine Division at Christmas, and you have been Santa. How did that happen? Will you continue in that role?**

My father was a professional Santa, and after he died in 1994, I inherited his Santa suit, which my mother had made for him. When CMI started the food drive we had a friend of CMI volunteer to be Santa at the event, but his health failed and he was not able to perform that duty in the years to come, and I was "forced" into the role as I had the suit and the beard. It was never my intention to follow in my father's footsteps. I imagine that I will be asked to continue, but it looks like the beard will not be ready for this year.

**What was the biggest challenge you have faced in your years as a community manager? What do you see as the biggest challenges ahead for condominiums in general and for the Elizabeth Lofts in particular?**

I have to say that the Victaulic lawsuit leading up to the settlement agreement was the biggest challenge for the Board and the management team. The Board secured an incredible settlement that continues to provide the building and the owners with security, but in the event that there are continued leaks and failures, a total re-



pipe may be required and that will be a huge challenge to the owners. Hopefully, if that has to happen, it will be on Victaulic's dime! On a wider view, the State has adopted new laws that allow the Board to continue to meet electronically, and that will provide greater access to all owners as well. Keep an eye on the legislature to make sure they continue to pass laws that are favorable to the condominium community. CMI continues to play a leadership role in keeping the welfare of owners at the forefront on the state level.

**Is there a particular day/event that occurred in your tenure that stands out as notable - a good/funny story or possibly qualifying as “the worse the experience, the better the story”?**

Early on in the days when people were moving in and the construction crews were still working in the building, there were a couple of tense moments, such as when the fire alarms sounded on the 15th floor and the elevators returned to the ground floor; I decided I needed eyes on the situation so I started to run up the stairs. I made it to the tenth floor before I had to stop, out of breath and legs on fire! Luckily it was a false alarm.

Another day, workers installing the garage door in what was to become the Community Room broke the sprinkler head and water went pouring out into the breezeway. That was before the doorway was cut into the hallway to provide access. That space was originally for sale as a commercial space, but it was deemed too small and there was no interest in it, so it was deeded to the Association and the door was cut through the concrete walls.

The most awkward moment was when the construction crew needed access to a unit to inspect the drainage from a terrace. The owner was out of town for a week and agreed that we could arrange for the team to enter his unit the day after next. That morning I escorted the team (there were about 10 of us all together) and we proceeded to the unit. I knocked before using the key to enter, no answer as we expected, and in we go into a dark unit. I found the lights and low and behold the owner had returned late the night before, forgetting he had given us permission to enter, and we found him on top of his bed au naturel, sound asleep. We all exited the unit quickly, and knocked loudly on the door several time before he woke up and answered the door and let us in. (If you are reading this, I hope you don't remember the incident!)

The number of wonderful experiences and heartwarming moments are too numerous to even start to retell!

**What are we going to do without your institutional memory???**

I have committed to CMI to provide information whenever needed. The Elizabeth has always, and will continue to be, my home away from home. I feel confident in leaving the reins to Karina and Jennifer, and also with Kati, Rodolfo, Robert, Imelda and Paul. You are in good hands!



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# OPEN YOUR EYES

by Larry Rosenblum

I love to walk. I even enjoy getting lost. It gives me fresh eyes. Too much becomes wallpaper. Portland has a wealth of murals, but over time they faded into the background. So I set about to be present in the moment and rediscover the art that is literally on the walls. Feel free to join me.

A case in point is the two trippy murals near the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Washington (best viewed from 12<sup>th</sup> & Burnside). Undoubtedly you've walk past them many times. When was the last time you noticed them or given a thought about their meaning? The floating man is an untitled collaboration between Troy Lovegates and [Paige Wright](#). The man full of clouds is the creation of [Michael Reeder](#). I don't know the title, but there is a similarly themed work of his titled Sky High. And if you open your eyes you'll find several other murals within a couple of blocks.



If you wander all the way up to 23<sup>rd</sup> Place and Vaughn, you'll find Groundwork Coffee Company, a coffee house with an impressive storefront. "Hello Bear!" is an expansive mural by [Jeremy Nichols, who is](#) also known as Plastic Birdie.





Across the street on the Willamette Wine Storage building is a mural for its neighbor, the Fillmore Trattoria. This bucolic image feels incongruous with the industrial environs of Vaughn Street.



Around the corner on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, [Larry Kangas](#) created what might appear to be an Italian village, especially since it is called “Bella Venti-tre e Thurman” (Beautiful 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thurman). In fact, it is an homage to Thurman Street between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



About 10 blocks south on a medical office building at 25<sup>th</sup> and Lovejoy, you'll find the stunning and dramatic “Soul.” According to a woman who works in the building, the owners flew [Paola Delfin](#), a renowned artist, in from Mexico City to create this masterpiece. Trust me, no photo does this justice.



Lots of murals have a message and Portland has its share. On the side of 1123 Yamhill is a tribute to a fierce-looking Ruth Bader Ginsberg. “La Lucha Sigue” (The Fight Continues) seems well placed on the offices of an immigration law firm.

Closer to home, a tribute to victims of police violence can be seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue side of the skateboard shop, Tactics.



A spectacular mural created by a group of people was painted on the boarded up Apple store downtown. EQ first published this photo in EQ4. While the mural has been taken down, it has been stored and it is expected to be remounted at a different location.







The Century Tower at 1201 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue has seen better days. If you go around back to the parking lot, you will see “The Helping Hands.” [David Flores](#) created the six story mural and I can’t say if it is a comment on the state of the Tower or more likely a general commentary.

Some murals are art for art’s sake. Next to the Portland Art Museum at Park and Main is one of these. After some investigation, I learned that Russian born Rustan [Qbic](#) created “Star Catcher,” but I still don’t know what it means.



Down at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Harvey Milk, Kevin Ledo created the multi-story image of a beautiful child entitled “[Under the Same Sky.](#)”



And at 4<sup>th</sup> and Everett, Belgium born and Hong Kong based [Caratoes](#) (also known as Cara To) collaborated with [Smitheone](#) on “Black Pepper,” a vaguely schematic version of a woman’s head - perhaps hinting at her mental and emotional interior.



On Burnside between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Powell’s sponsored Edward Holmes’ “Invent the Future.” I don’t know if it speaks to Powell’s struggles to stay solvent during the pandemic, has another meaning or is just having fun.





Finally, my favorite mural is one of a mysterious woman that appears on the side of Ania Bridal at 521 SW 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Is she trying on her wedding dress? Walking down the aisle? Having second thoughts?

The answer is none of the above. A woman in the bridal shop told me that the mural was there before the bridal shop moved in. It was just serendipity that such a perfect mural was there all along. "Capax Infiniti" was painted in 2014 by South African artist [Faith47](#) and funded by the Portland Art Mural Program. The artist has said, "I want it to look like it's been there for a long time. I enjoy working with things that are slightly ghostly. It's like existing in two spaces at once."

These days she is mostly hidden. Construction of a new building next door has led to the mural being mostly covered. It appears that care is being taken to preserve the mural so there is real hope that she will make another appearance.

Finally, one of life's small disappointments is the discovery that your original idea has already been thought of by many. The good news for you is that there are many sites with guides to Portland's murals. The whole of East Portland's murals are unexplored here and there are so many more than I can include. So check out this [20 best mural guide](#) and a [map of recommended murals](#). One last piece of advice. The smartphone app Lens allows you to take photos and bring up information on the subject. It's definitely not perfect, but it helped research the mural art. Now go out and see what's right in front of you!



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# GOODWILL HUNTING 2.0

by Faith Smith

Fifteen months ago, I wrote a lighthearted little piece on shopping in thrift stores as a way to spruce up your wardrobe, boost local businesses, and save the planet.

Then Covid hit and I asked EQ to suspend publishing the article.

In those first weeks and months of lockdown, when we worried about staying safe, staying sane, and securing masks and toilet paper and disinfectant, all but the most essential stores had shut down. Seemed not such a great time to be talking about shopping, dressing, or doing anything outside the home.

Time has passed, we've made it through the worst, and summer 2021 is here. My husband and I got our "Fauci Ouchies" weeks ago – and I hope you did, too. Our collective spirits are gradually lifting along with the health and safety restrictions we've all endured for the past 15 or so months. Now seems like a more fitting time to talk about such "before-time" things as thrifting, so without further delay...

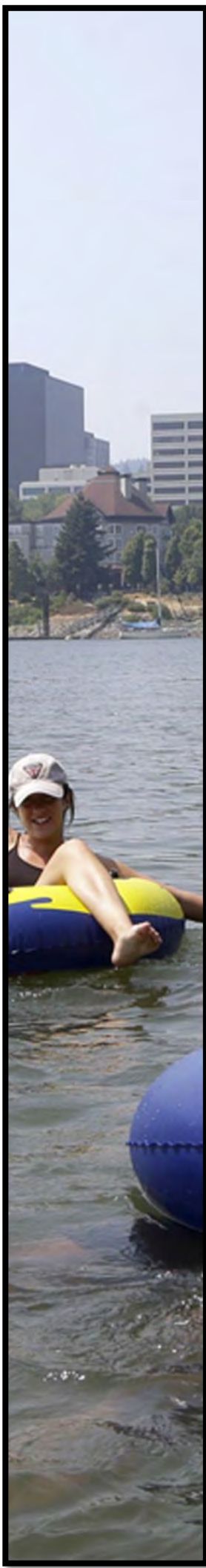
## Goodwill Hunting: The Eco-Conscious Way to Shop

Winter, spring, summer or fall, it's always fun to hit the stores and snap up a new outfit or two—particularly when there's a bargain. "Fast fashion" is all the rage these days, but there's a sinister reality behind the acres of crazy-inexpensive blouses and skirts and trousers you find at places like, well, you know which places. Where are these impossibly low-priced items manufactured—and how? According to *Simple Living* magazine, a recent study found that the average global consumer bought *60 percent more clothing in 2014* than in 2000—but kept each garment about *only half as long*. To make matters worse, Americans sent three-fifths of these purchases, many made from petroleum-based polyester, nylon, and acrylic (read: plastic) to a landfill or incinerator *within a few years of its being made*.

The production end of fashion isn't pretty either, what with the chemical fertilizers used to grow cotton, the rainforest trees pulped to create rayon fabric, the coal burned to power garment factories, and fuel guzzled to ship garments across the world to our stores. Punchline: the fashion industry is responsible for an estimated *8 percent of global carbon emissions*.

In other words, landfill is the new black.

Bummer, right? But despair not, oh seekers of greener fashion finds. Before you grab your pitchfork to storm the gates of Pioneer Square Mall, there's something more productive and satisfying you can do, and you can save a buck too. Have you ever gone thrifting? You know, popping into one of those secondhand shops with the slightly kooky outfit combos in the window? I'm here to tell you there's treasure to be found





there, people—treasure! Thrifting is cheap. It's cheerful. And when it comes to sending a powerful message about eco-consciousness to the fashion powers that be, it's voting with your wallet.

My first thrift shop experience was in the winter of 1981, in Oxford, England. I was a broke student on a semester abroad, and I was getting sick of coming up with dreary outfits from the paltry pieces I'd packed: one dress, two pants, two sweaters, three shirts, and three skirts. Wait, make that two skirts—I'd actually burned one of them by standing too close to the treacherous grill heater in my frigid attic dorm room. Then one chilly, overcast afternoon after class let out, I walked past a shop window displaying a hodgepodge of brightly colored linen pillows on sale for 3 pounds each. I didn't need throw pillows, but the low price had me. I walked in and discovered racks and racks of trendy Indian batik skirts for 2 pounds each, and secondhand Scottish wool sweaters in every color for not much more. Better still, this was an Oxfam shop, which I soon learned was a charitable international organization with thrift shops that benefit their cause. Why had no one told me of such places?

Many years have passed. I'm still an avid thrifter because, as the saying goes, "I've been shopping all my life and still have nothing to wear." Any excuse and I'm out there rifling through the racks for my next new look. Now that I live at 333, I feel that Portland should be crowned the thrift capital of the universe. With all the Goodwills and a zillion nonprofit boutiques surrounding us—some just walking distance from the Elizabeth—I hardly shop retail anymore. Last week [and 15 months ago] I nipped into Buffalo Exchange on Burnside, and the next day raided the Goodwill on NE Broadway on my way home from running errands.

My finds:



Funky 70s style bellbottomed cropped pants - \$8



Plaid cropped pants - \$25

100% silk blouse with deco pattern - \$9



Cotton printed scarf, with fringe - \$8



Hand knit mohair sweater with mother of pearl buttons - \$8



100% cotton shower curtain that I sewed into a Merchant & Mills "Foreman Jacket" - \$7 [and my hair is no longer this short]

All this, and I scored in the "Linens" section, too. (Attention owners of sewing machines: some of my favorite summer frocks are fashioned from \$7 cotton shower curtains and tablecloths, both of which are excellent sources of yardage.)



Here's the real beauty: When you tire of wearing your finds, donate them back! Or pack up your gently used items and make an appointment to consign at Buffalo Exchange on Burnside and 11th. If they like your stuff, they pay on the spot with your choice of cash, or an even greater dollar amount in *store credit*. Whatever they don't accept, they give to charity—or you can drop it off at Goodwill yourself, and then go shopping while you're there!

I'm telling you, it's a whole new way to add adventure to your shopping list, get to know your thrifty neighbors, shop more responsibly, and spice up your wardrobe.



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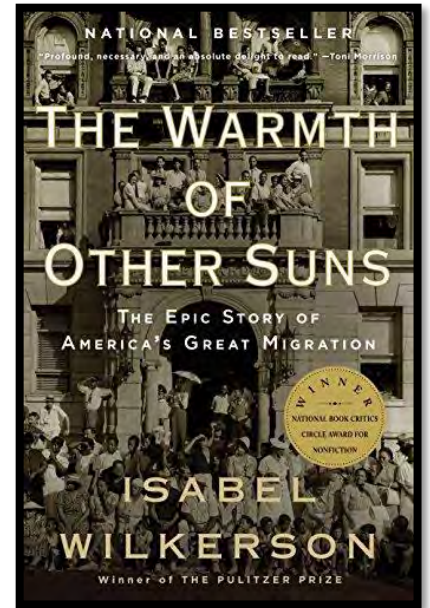
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# THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS

by Chris Steele

Summer is here and that can mean the opportunity for a good “beach read.” For some people this might be just a light read, like a novel, while others enjoy the challenge of a longer non-fiction volume to browse all summer, either as an enjoyable challenge or maybe education. I belong to two book groups, one being the Elizabeth Lofts group, both meeting via ZOOM this past year. One group selected The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson. I began the book with no real insight into this era of American history, and I was somewhat daunted by the 540 pages of text, excluding the index and notes. I was not alone in my wary approach to such a reading project, and the group determined that we would allow three months to finish the book. In the end, I found the history enlightening, and Wilkerson’s writing style was pleasant to read, and three months of time was more than enough.

Isabel Wilkerson is a journalist for the New York Times and the 1994 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing based on her coverage of the 1993 midwestern floods. With her award-winning experience, she researched and wrote an engaging narrative, publishing The Warmth of Other Suns in 2010. Her most recent work of non-fiction is Caste: The Origins of our Discontents, published in 2020, which I may add to my summer reading.



The Warmth of Other Suns covers the migration of Black Americans from the South to the North and West over the years from 1915 up until the 1970's. The census before World War I showed that 90% of all Blacks in the U.S. were living in the South; most Blacks currently living in the Northern and Western states probably have relatives in their family tree who migrated from the South. In many instances, entire communities



would relocate, enticed by the opportunities initial migrants discovered outside the Jim Crow South. Wilkerson interviewed over 1,000 people as listed in the back of the book. From these many individuals, Wilkerson selected three main characters, and followed their stories from the South to the North and West, reflecting the evolution of their lives, the challenges they faced in the Jim Crow South, the success they achieved in their new cities and the discrimination they continued to face, despite the lack of segregation laws. Through these three protagonists, Wilkerson provides a vivid picture of life in different States of the Jim Crow South, the difficulties faced on the respective journeys and the challenges found in the Northern cities where they created new lives for themselves and their families.

**“...and at one point the house across the street disappeared.....”**

In 1929 Ida Mae Brandon Gladney was a sharecropper's wife living in Mississippi. One hundred pounds of cotton had to be picked in the hot sun, about 7,000 bolls to earn 50 cents. The pickers hands would become callused and cramped from repetitive motion and pricks from the sharp cockleburs surrounding the soft cotton boll. By 1937, the depression increased the struggle to survive, and when one of Ida Mae's relatives was beaten almost to death due to a false accusation, she and her husband decided life in the North would offer more opportunity. They left Mississippi by train, riding in the crowded Jim Crow car with as many possessions as they could carry and food for the trip. They eventually settled in Chicago, where her husband found work in the Campbell's Soup factory, earning lower wages than white workers. Ida Mae worked different jobs throughout her life to add income for the family. In 1967, combining the family income from their two grown children, Ida Mae and her husband were able to purchase a three-flat building on the South Shore. As Black families began to move into the area, the prior White residents began to leave, and at one point the house across the street disappeared when the owners moved it to a different neighborhood. As poorer families filled the resulting vacancies, the poverty and lack of opportunity eventually led to higher crime.

George Swanson Starling picked fruit in the citrus groves of Florida in 1944. He became an unintended union organizer by encouraging other pickers to refuse to pick for the low wages offered by the grove owners. This was a dangerous move to threaten the profit margins of the growers. In Florida and the rest of the Deep South, there was no legal inquiry required if a Black man was killed by a White. With his life at risk, George took the train to New York City, and worked for many years as a coach attendant on the train, helping passengers with their luggage, a job he was overqualified and overeducated to fill, but lucky to have. The family settled in Harlem, where a thriving community of Black Americans had begun to develop.

Robert Joseph Pershing Foster grew up in Louisiana and graduated from Morehouse University, majoring in math with a minor in biology. He then went on to medical school. Robert became an army surgeon stationed in Austria, but discovered that working under Southern officers, even in Austria, the Jim Crow mentality still limited his occupational opportunities. After the war, he left Louisiana, forced to drive non-stop to Los Angeles as Blacks were not welcome at many traveler establishments. In Los Angeles, George continued to find his medical job options limited. He eventually became successful, building a reputation in the Black community. He famously treated Ray Charles, who gratefully memorialized Robert in his song Hide 'Nor Hair; "Dr. Foster" refers to Robert. Robert enjoyed displaying his wealth, and ensured his wife and daughters were fabulously attired and his large home was decorated tastefully. One year he spent quite a bit of money to host a large birthday party for himself as a means of displaying his success.

**"This book brings a timely understanding  
to the frustrations in the U.S. . . . ."**

Wilkerson narrated these stories using chronology as her framework. Between the stories of her main characters, she summarized the general racial perspectives in the different eras and locations covered in the book. Growing up in California during the 60's and 70's, I do not recall this part of American history being covered, or I didn't pay attention in class, which is also possible. I asked my nephew, a Stanford student who was in the same school district, if he remembered learning about the migration. He said the topic was covered both in junior and senior high school classes, and he could list many books written on the subject. He claims the gaps left by his formal education were filled when he read The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander. Ida Mae, George, and Robert found they could escape the Jim Crow laws in the South, but still found discrimination in the North and West which limited career and housing opportunities. This book brings a timely understanding to the frustrations in the U.S. over the past year since George Floyd's murder. Many of the same barriers discussed in the book are found in society today. Teaching African American history in school is not propagandizing; awareness must come before change. I am glad that this book crossed my path, and will continue to expand my education in this area.



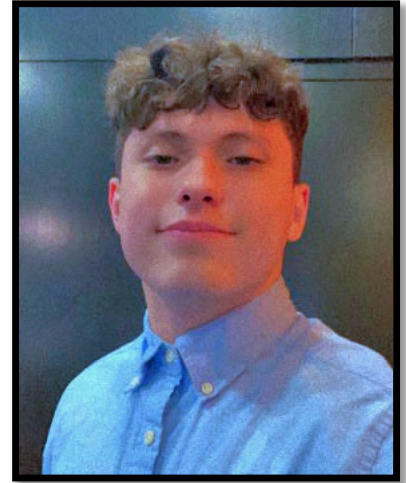
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# GET TO KNOW OUR STAFF: Robert Rosbaugh

By Paula McGee

Robert's back!! Each issue we interview one of our amazing staff members who do such a great job of making our lives and our homes safe, secure and beautiful. In our comings and goings, we stop at the concierge desk to pick up a package or ask a question and we may chat a moment, but it's hard to get to know these important people in those brief encounters. In this issue we asked Robert to share a bit about his journey and return to the Elizabeth!



**It's nice to have you back! I know you left to go to school, how is that going? What are you studying, and what is your ultimate goal with your studies?**

It's nice to be back here at the Elizabeth. I did leave to focus more on school, and it helped me choose a new path of study. I changed my path from going for a general business degree to software engineering. It was a huge change, but I genuinely believe it will be more enjoyable. I'm currently on summer break, but I will be starting my software engineering journey this fall. I'd have to say that my ultimate goal for my studies is to be financially stable on my own and to be able to help my mom (Alejandra or Alex) and my dad (Robert – I'm a Junior) and my sister (Anissa) if they ever need anything. I'm also doing this for my future and to be happy with what I choose to do as a career.

**Did you grow up in this area? Or how long have you lived around here?**

To answer the first question if I grew up in this area, I have. Not so much as in downtown Portland, but I spent most of my years in Portland, Oregon. I was born in Arizona and lived there for about 8-9 years.

I believe it was the summer of 2010 when I moved over to Portland. I attended most of my elementary school years here in Portland, all my middle school years, and graduated from Madison High School in 2019. So, I'd say I'm pretty well versed with Portland, and knowing my general location if I somehow ended up lost. I should be able to find myself.





**What brought you to The Elizabeth? What type of work were you doing before?**

What first brought me to the Elizabeth, since this is my second time here, was my cousin who has been working janitorial for CMI for roughly 18 years now. After I graduated high school, I was working and attending Portland Community College. I was working for a few different spots just to get used to having a job. I worked at fast food like Wingstop and gave a shot at the store Target. It was only after about two months at Target when my cousin mentioned that being a concierge for CMI would be a great job for me. It was around May/June of 2019 when I was able to score an interview for the position here at the Elizabeth with the members of the board, which at the time were Paul Roelofs, Andreas Anderson, and, from CMI, Tom LaVoie. After the interview was concluded, they offered me the position here at the Elizabeth. I was thrilled about the position and meeting Kati, and Monica was great. They were super helpful when I was first starting, and we had a great team.

As I mentioned in the beginning of this segment, this is my second time being here at the Elizabeth. I returned just recently after leaving to focus solely on school. Thus, I was able to figure out my path of studies. It helped me a ton, and I spoke to my mom and sister to help me with guidance about what I should do with work and school. They helped guide me and understand what I really wanted to do. I was able to decide about what I wanted to study, and then about a few months ago I found a job. I knew what I wanted to do, and I'm still determined to follow through with my goals. I have been working full time at my other job for a few months now and I heard from my cousin that CMI needed help for concierge. I decided to apply and spoke to my old supervisor Patrick. He mentioned that the company would give me another chance and I'd work the weekends here at the Elizabeth. I was excited. On my first day back, I was greeted back by a lot of the residents who were happy to see a familiar face and it was pleasant to see them for me as well. This is how I ended up back at the Elizabeth. Thank you for having me back.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

What I like to do in my free time is a broad question that can lead off to a bunch of hobbies. For me personally, I more recently have been getting into music. What I mean by music is, creating, learning new instruments like piano, practicing guitar, and understanding how to use software to create the music.

Besides music, I have also been working with my dad and designing t-shirts. I really enjoy fashion and what people look for when they shop, and the stories behind pieces made by designers in the fashion industry. My dad and I have been creating vinyl designs for t-shirts, hoodies, and other clothing items. This is something I'm passionate about because there is always something new that can be created, and to me it's art. I'm definitely not the greatest at art when it comes to doing sketches, or painting, but I like to envision designs and learn how to make them using Adobe Illustrator, and Adobe Photoshop. I also enjoy being with friends and making memories with them.

**What are the best parts of your job and what are the worst/hardest? And what, as residents, can we do that would be helpful?**

I honestly believe that the best part about working here at the Elizabeth is about growing relationships with the residents. Being able to see most of the residents every day, and conversing with them helps

grow trust, and helps grow friendly conversations. Of course, it must be professional, but there is also this connection that grows over time when you see someone every day, and it's just a warm feeling. It makes you feel happy when you come to the Elizabeth, you get the feeling of being welcomed by the residents.

The worst and hardest parts of this job at the Elizabeth I'd have to say are trying to have every day flow the best. Not everything, every day, is perfect. There will be days that are stressful if there are issues within the building taking place and having to also worry about who is entering the building, all the while trying to assist other residents with packages or responding to important emails. This just makes the day stressful, but that's okay because jobs are not always supposed to be easy in my opinion, but, of course, when they are it helps a ton. What I think the residents can do to help is a hard question to answer. When the job gets stressful, it's not necessarily any resident's fault. Therefore, it's hard to justify what residents can do to be helpful. I believe, just the best thing that can be done is just to be genuine, be themselves, and be patient/respectful about any situation that might be happening during any shift the concierge staff is working. We all enjoy helping everyone in the building as best we can, especially when we see you all basically every day. We always try our best to keep everything running smoothly, and always make sure that the building is safe, and no issues are occurring to the best of our ability.



EQ welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: [EQ@ElizabethLofts.org](mailto:EQ@ElizabethLofts.org)

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# AROUND TOWN

Compiled By Larry Rosenblum

## In the Building

There is a lot going on in the Elizabeth Lofts.

**Book Club** The Elizabeth Book Club meets on the second Monday of each month at 4:30, currently via ZOOM.



In August the group will be reading and discussing The Girl with the Louding Voice, by Abi Dare. The book in September is A Yellow Raft in Blue Water, by Michael Dorris. In October, the selection is Stronghold: One Man's Quest to Save the World's Wild Salmon, by Tucker Malarkey. Our selections are varied and the discussions are insightful. If you are interested, contact Judy Douglas at [judyvdouglas@verizon.net](mailto:judyvdouglas@verizon.net)

**Knitting Group** — They start with knitting, but they make friends. The club meets in person with masks on the first and third Wednesdays of the month @ 7pm. Contact Chris Steele at [Chris@bsteele.com](mailto:Chris@bsteele.com) for all the details.

**Welcoming Committee** — This recently formed group continues to look for volunteers to welcome new residents to the building and generally make the Elizabeth Lofts a more warm and friendly place. If this interests you, please contact Bob Garsha at [welcome@elizabethlofts.org](mailto:welcome@elizabethlofts.org) to offer your help.

**EQ** - the newsletter you are reading right now! We are not just a pretty face. We are also an opportunity to exercise your creative muscles. We need writers, photographers, editors and graphic designers and artists. Contact us at [EQ@elizabethlofts.org](mailto:EQ@elizabethlofts.org) to volunteer.

**ELEC** — the Elizabeth Lofts Emergency Committee is a group of residents who have come together to make people and the building safer, more secure and more resilient in the event of an emergency.



**We need volunteers** to help us plan for disasters by joining the committee, or as special advisors on issues like medical care or construction. We also need people who we know in advance are ready to help when need strikes. If you would like to learn more or can help, contact ELEC at [elec.leads@elizabethlofts.org](mailto:elec.leads@elizabethlofts.org).



**Community Room Book Shelves** – A librarian with too much time on their hands recently organized the lending library. Lots of good reads. Check it out!

## Virtual Events and other Activities

Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts have a [series of virtual events](#), but may be winding down.

Portland Center Stage at the Armory has [recordings of their virtual offerings](#), from original works to staged readings to community partnership events. Look for [upcoming events](#) too!

[The Shows Must Go On!](#) Every Friday, Sir Andrew Lloyd Weber (or whoever runs his YouTube) has been posting videos of concerts, tributes, and filmed productions of Andrew Lloyd Weber shows.

[Lots of live concerts](#) - mostly rock 'n roll and [online pop](#).

The National Symphony has a [series of live online performances](#) and an archive of past events.

[Wine & Vinyl Hour](#) – Every Thursday @ 6PM Mayer Hawthorne performs on YouTube.

Portland's Social Distance Ensemble – April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6PM and a different concert every Friday streamed live by the [45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Universe](#).

[Chamber Music Northwest](#) – Two summer festivals: Live and At Home.

[Oregon Symphony](#) – music, talk and the Symphony's story time for kids and returns in October

The Grammy's has compiled a [list of streaming concerts](#) from a wide range of musicians.

[Metropolitan Opera](#) , [Berlin Philharmonic](#) , [Seattle Symphony](#)

[Theatrical Performances](#) – most are pay-per-view

Britain's [National Theatre](#) and [The Globe Theatre](#) – some content is free

[Playbill's](#) list of live theatrical performances. Check back each week.

Portland Art Museum's [Film and New Media Happy Hour](#), [PAM and NWFC at Home](#), and a podcast [Art Unbound](#).

[British Museum](#), [National Gallery of Art](#), [The Met](#), [2500 more museums](#) – seriously!

[Open Culture](#) – online classes on all kinds of topics and seminars

[Harvard Online](#) – yes that Harvard and lots of classes are free

[Coursera](#) – A large collection of free online courses

[Learn Out Loud](#) – audio and video personal development courses



[Personal Growth Courses](#) – the name says it all

[Sky Watch](#) – you need to find a dark place and a cloudless night for [meteor showers](#).

If you have a library card, [Kanopy](#) provides access to free movies, books, podcasts and more.

[Open Library](#) – online free books and [OverDrive](#) – portal to public libraries for e-books and audiobooks

[Stitcher's](#) collection of podcasts

[LibriVox](#) – ebooks and audiobooks in the public domain and [1000 Free Audiobooks](#)

The [Oregon Zoo](#) has Zoom meetings with the animals and it's re-opened as well.

Don't forget free virtual get togethers. [Zoom](#), [Google Hangouts](#) (requires free Chrome browser), [Houseparty](#) is especially good for playing games, [Facetime](#) for iPhone users, Facebook's [Messenger](#), and of course [Skype](#).

## Check These Out Before They Are Gone

[Cathedral Park Jazz Festival](#) – July 16-18 (N Edison & Pittsburg Ave.)

[Summer of Feasts](#) – Flicks, food and fun starting July 29 throughout the summer

[Clap Your Hands, Say Yeah](#) - Alec Ounsworth performs July 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 8PM at [Mississippi Studios](#) There is a lot more happening there so check it out. (3939 N Mississippi Ave.)

[Stacy Jo Scott](#) – Lo, A Vase in the Dark till July 24 @ Holding Contemporary (914 Flanders)

[St. John's Art Walk](#) - a real walking experience including the St. Johns Business District & the Courtyard at Workshop St. Johns (formerly Cathedral Park Place) – July 24<sup>th</sup>

[Slabtown Makers Market](#) – July 24-25<sup>th</sup> @ 2516 NW 29<sup>th</sup> Ave.

[I Am My Story: Voices of Hope](#) – Oregon Historical Society through August 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 1200 SW Park Ave.

[Lee Kelly and Kevin Buck](#)– Elizabeth Leach Gallery (417 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.) by appointment only through July 31<sup>st</sup>.

[Original Practice Shakespeare Festival](#) has already started but runs all summer at various parks.

***Labor Day Sept 6<sup>th</sup> – Start your Grills!***

They are still clueless about when October is, but who cares, there's beer! [Mount Angel Oktoberfest](#) – Sept-16-19<sup>th</sup> Mount Angel



[Sidewalk Chalk Art Festival](#) – Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> in Forest Grove



[Portland Marathon](#) – Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> all around Portland

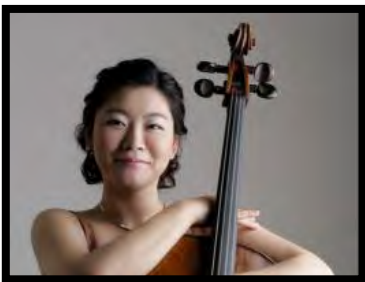
[Fall Kite Festival](#) – Date TBD Lincoln City

## Live Performances

[Portland Pickles Baseball](#) – players from local high school and college teams play for the Pickles though August 6<sup>th</sup>. Several games are followed by live concerts.



[The Dinner Detective](#) – participatory murder mystery Sat. nights @ Downtown Embassy Suite



[Chamber Music Northwest](#) – online and live!

[Oregon Music Festival](#) – June 20 through July @ various locations, but most have been cancelled.

[Edgefield Ampitheater](#) (2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale)

[Sheryl Crow](#) – August 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM

[Yo-Yo Ma](#) comes August 18<sup>th</sup> @6:30 PM







[Portland Center Stage](#) @ the Armory. Their 2021-22 season, with 7 plays, was just announced. Check it out!

[Portland Center for the Arts](#) is 5 venues offering music, theater, comedy and more.

[Moda Center](#) has many of the biggest music acts.

[Oregon Ballet Theater](#) is reimagining itself. See what they are up to.

It's only rock'n roll. No, there's much more at the [Crystal Ballroom](#) (1332 W Burnside)

It's not around the corner, but the [Aladdin Theater](#) has some great music.

[Revolution Hall](#) has a wide range of music but is not fully open yet (1300 SE Stark St.)

We miss Jimmy Mak's, but fine jazz can be found at the [Jack London Revue](#) and at [Wilf's](#)

## Not the Usual Hollywood Blockbusters

[Living Room Theater](#) (10<sup>th</sup> and Stark) and [Cinema 21](#) (616 NW 21<sup>st</sup> Ave.) offer more than the usual fare

[NW Film Center](#) offers a variety of new and classic films in the Whitsell Auditorium (inside the Portland Art Museum)

[Cinema Unbound Summer Series](#) – NW Film Center's rooftop movies @ the Lloyd Center and drive-in @ OMSI, July 1 – Sept 30

[Portland Film Festival](#) – October 10-16. Usually at various theaters around town.



## Thanks for Reminding Me

[Portland Art Museum](#) Explore [current exhibitions](#) and [Ansel Adams](#) till August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Local galleries open their door every First Thursday evening. Here's a [map of participating galleries](#). Don't forget the [Portland Art Museum](#) is free from 5-8 PM.

The [Saturday Market](#) is next to the Burnside Bridge

[South Waterfront Farmer's Market](#) – Thursdays 2-7PM through October @ 3508 S Moody Ave.

[PSU Farmers Market](#) – Saturdays 8:30-2pm @ SW Park and Montgomery





OMSI is open again. [Advance ticket purchase](#) is strongly recommended.

There is nothing better than a good book, except listening to the author talk about it. Check out what's happening at [Powell's](#).

The Oregon Trail is now paved with wine. Why not spend a day along the [Oregon Wine Trail](#) enjoying a glass of your favorite?

National Parks have [3 free days](#) in August and September. State Parks have [2 free days](#).

"I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. DeMille" is not part of Oregon film history, but *Sometimes A Great Notion* is part of the [Oregon Film Trail](#).

The outdoors is usually an option and the Oregonian came up with a list of Oregon's 7 Wonders and then reconsidered what else deserved to be on the list. [Check out the list](#) and then go exploring.

There is more fun than we can mention. So check out the [Willamette Week's](#) or [Portland Mercury's searchable list](#) of events in the area.

*We endeavor to make this list accurate, but some events may change their dates or be cancelled and a few may have occurred before we could publish.*



EQ welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: [EQ@ElizabethLofts.org](mailto:EQ@ElizabethLofts.org)

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## READER'S RESPONSES

Hello Readers and Residents

We have established this page to hear from you. We welcome all comments and suggestions.

This will help us determine not only the relevance of our articles but most importantly the shape of EQ in the future.

Email to [EQ@elizabethlofts.org](mailto:EQ@elizabethlofts.org)

***Bob Garsha***

for the EQ Staff

July 2021

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