



The Elizabeth Lofts

Quarterly Newsletter

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

PAEAN TO A FELLED HERIGATE OAK

Ted Falk brings us memories of a magnificent tree, in his former Eastmoreland yard. Ted and Marilyn Deutch, current Elizabeth resident and FOX12 newscaster, discovered a connection over the love and demise of the Eastmoreland tree.

CHANGES IN OUR SUPPORT TEAM

If you haven't noticed - the concierge desk has a change in schedule. Are you confused if it's night or day?

ANN SACKS

Steve Rose brings us an engaging interview with Ann Sacks, friend and accomplished entrepreneur.

TOUR de PEARL

The Portland Criterium, a short route bike race, returned to the Pearl a few weeks ago, and Larry was quick to grab his camera. Here he walks us through the afternoon event with race details and photos.

THE ELIZABETH ANNUAL PARTY

A nice turn out made the day! Good food, great music, engaging conversations!

FABIOLA CARDENAS - SPARKLY GOWNS

Recently opened in The Elizabeth, Fabiola's shop "Sparkly Gowns," has a history of family style.

EQ RECURRING FEATURES

REEL TALKS Movie Review. Faith shares a second look into ***Bandit*** (2001).

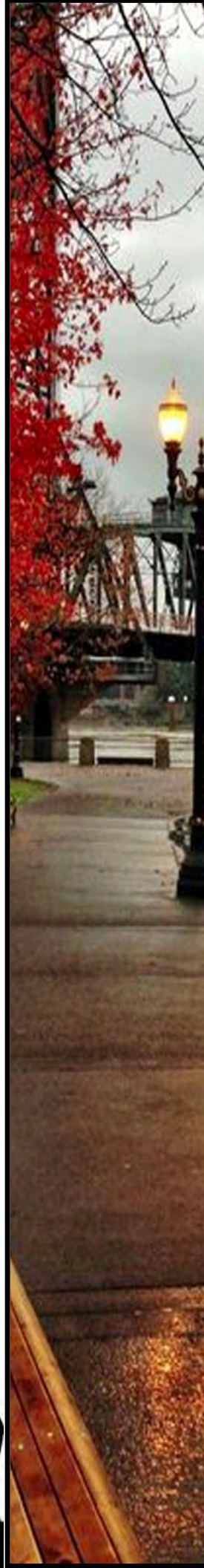
GREETINGS FROM THE LIBRARY Bill offers a peek at the Fiction section in The Elizabeth Library.

HAPPENING IN and AROUND THE ELIZABETH

The latest on Elizabeth in-house community activities, and updated options for entertainment, education, and observation, locally accessible.

October 2022

Editing by Denise Ambrosio and EQ team
Design & Layout by Michelle Heckman





NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Bob Garsha

Welcome to EQ 13!

It feels much more dramatic going from 12 to 13 than from 4 to 5. Gosh, EQ is growing up!

In this issue

A tree grew in Eastmoreland. Two of our former and current residents share the impact and journey of this Northern Red Oak and the lives that grew up around it.

Transition at the Concierge desk. We hear from Kati and Terrin.

Steve Rose sits down with Ann Sacks. Yes, that Ann Sacks.

Larry gives us an update as the Criterium Bike Race returns. Is it Speed Racer or Racer X to the finish line?

Meet Fabiola at Sparkly Gowns, owner, and creative director.

Our library never sleeps; see all things readable.

We add a new recurring column, Reel Talks. Faith Smith, in her inimitable style, takes us to the movies!

Chris dutifully brings context to the ever-changing scenes that make up Around Town.

And, of course, we are so happy to bring you a Quarterly Newsletter. We hope you always look forward to its publishing!

for the **EQ** Staff

October 2022

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

PÆAN TO A FELLED HERITAGE OAK

By Photo essay Ted Falk, former resident

with Introduction by Marilyn Deutsch,
our neighbor and newscaster with Fox 12 in Portland

A Tree Grew in Eastmoreland

I recently fell in love with a tree. It was not just any tree; it was perhaps the finest one in Eastmoreland.

Until, that is, one of its 30-thousand-pound branches came down with a thud about midnight blocking SE 34th near Bybee.

So, I met the tree when it was in crisis and it was no longer in its fullest glory, but it was still a beauty.

Two-thirds of this 200-year-old tree still stood, blocking out a brutal August sun. Its leaves sparkling in the few rays of sunlight it playfully let through.

Fortunately, no one was hurt and the damage to property was minimal. Neighbors endured a long power outage because of that, but neighbors were far more concerned about losing this 200-year-old tree than they were about the inconveniences this outage meant for them.

This was a northern red oak, and it was registered with the city as a heritage tree. I reported a story for Fox 12 that day and then followed up the next week with an interview with the arborist who has tended the tree for the last several years and was now about to take that entire healthy tree down. (It was no longer safe to keep it up.)

He believes the tree "exploded" and that was caused by the recent intense heat we'd been having. Likely related to climate change. If he's right - - then we may lose more of these neighborhood trees. Yet, we need the shade they bring now more than ever. (These explosions seem to be more common among oaks than other trees according to the arborist.)

Neighbors were extremely upset that they would lose the tree. Many of them told me it was their favorite in the neighborhood. And in Eastmoreland that says a lot!

I just learned that my former Elizabeth Lofts neighbor took care of the northern red oak for decades. It was part of his property, part of his home.

Ted Falk shares his sweet memories with us - a reminder why we seek to cherish and protect our urban trees.



----- Marilyn

NO DOUBT MANY ELIZABETH RESIDENTS HAVE FOND MEMORIES

of the houses and yards they left to make their home in a condo building largely free of homeowner maintenance headaches. For us, the most vivid memory is of the northern red oak that graced our home in the Eastmoreland neighborhood, where we lived for more than three decades.

Thus, it came as a shock to hear from former neighbors that our beloved tree had exploded in a recent heat wave.

KPTV ran informative videos of the event at <https://www.kptv.com/video/2022/08/01/outages-reported-se-portland-after-downed-tree-damages-power-lines/> and <https://www.kptv.com/2022/08/08/trees-are-exploding-after-7-day-heat-wave/>. According to the present owners, the tree cannot be saved.



That trees can explode is well established, although freezing and lightning are causes better known than heat. https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Exploding_tree. Whether wildfire can explode trees is debated, a controversy President Trump stoked by claiming that exploding trees rather than climate change caused California wildfires. Whether a prolonged heat wave is more likely than a fast-moving wildfire to explode trees I must leave to the experts. In any event, Portland's July 2022 heat wave was one of the longest on record.

We sold the house, and with it the tree, in 2014. In 2017 the new owners placed the tree on the Portland register of heritage trees. There it is identified as *Quercus rubra*, the botanical name for northern red oak.

HOW DID THIS TREE COME TO BE PLANTED IN EASTMORELAND?

Its species raises a mystery: How did this tree come to be planted in Eastmoreland? Northern red oak is native only to the eastern half of the United States. (https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Quercus_rubra#/Distribution_and_habitat.) It is not native to Oregon.

Here is my hypothesis: A mid-19th-century map of what is now Eastmoreland shows a plant nursery in the area. That plant nursery must have been sold to developers of the neighborhood around the beginning of the 20th century. Our red oak was originally part of a row of seedling trees in the nursery and was abandoned half a century later when the nursery was sold. A historic photo of SE 34th Avenue, viewed south from Woodstock Boulevard for a mile, shows this tree as the only feature on the street before any houses were built. It was obviously planted long before the neighborhood's streets were planned. The only other hypothesis I can think of is a Johnny Appleseed of oak trees gaily distributing acorns across Oregon.

We asked our arborist to drill a core into the trunk so we could count its rings and determine its age. He refused, explaining that such a core would be a pathway for vermin that could introduce rot. If the tree must indeed be taken down due to its recent mortal injury, perhaps the new owners will count the rings.



When in full leaf, our oak was a massive presence, overshadowing our three-story house.

It was truly a tree for all seasons.



Its skeleton was best viewed in winter, with the leaves off.

Winter was also a good time for pruning. Pruning even a relatively small limb would fill our garage with fine hardwood firewood. The tree gamely bore its pruning scars for decades. The main reason for pruning was to remove unnecessary limbs and leaf load, reducing weight. This helps the tree resist ice and windstorms. We never lost more than a branch in a storm.



Another cause of urban tree loss is wholesale uprooting when roots become drenched. Our deeply rooted oak was not vulnerable to that. When we needed to replace our water main, workers dug a hole 6 feet deep at street level, 14 feet below the tree's ground level in the yard, and perhaps 30 feet from its trunk. There they found an oak root the size of a man's wrist. From this we infer that our entire century-old house floats on an underground web of oak roots. They had two centuries to spread without barriers.

The biggest improvement we made to the tree was to have an arborist install a swing, from a branch the height of our house's third story. Our children swung gaily from it starting when they were five.



They returned as married adults a quarter century later to swing again.



In the spring before sprouting leaves, it shed fibrous stalks. It was as if they co-evolved with house gutters in order to clog them. I spent, and fortunately survived, many spring days cleaning oak debris from our second-story gutters.



Summer brought down a hail of acorns. Their miniature size seemed incapable of generating such a massive tree. The child of our neighbors across the street planted one of these tiny acorns in their yard. We can return in a century to find out how that offspring of our tree is faring.



Late autumn brought the leaves to the ground. The oak was uninterested in dropping its leathery leaves until at least mid-November, after Portland rains would have begun. These were not the brightly colored and charmingly fluttering leaf falls of New Hampshire. Rather, these leaves were leathery, brown, and sodden.

I would begin by stuffing as many as possible into bags.



When that became impossible, I'd pile them on the street until street parking was gone. Then I'd await the most important two dates in December, when the city crews would heroically sweep all the neighborhood's leaves into trucks and cart them away. One wasn't supposed to sweep yard leaves into the street, but fortunately the crews did not care about this technicality.

Circumnavigating the massive trunk at yard level was a challenge.

At times, this behemoth seemed to have arrived from a primeval forest.



Full-resolution photographs from this essay are at <https://adobe.ly/3zSaSqO>. Photographs 1, 2, and 12-16 in the online album are courtesy of Chris and Sue Patrick, the present owners. The remaining photographs are mine.



EQ welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: EQ@ElizabethLofts.org

RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHANGES IN OUR SUPPORT TEAM

By Bob Garsha

E.Q. sat down with our two concierges, Kati Mitchell and Terrin Walters, to talk about the transitioning of their positions here at The Elizabeth.

E.Q: Kati, we know you have moved from the Lead Concierge position to the Evening Concierge. Why and how are you approaching this change?

Kati: Well, I am going to school starting September 26 and my school schedule won't work with the morning shift. It makes more sense to go back to nights. I will be doing four nights.

E.Q: How long have you thought about pursuing another vocation?

Kati: I have wanted to return to school for a while. I was doing my nursing prerequisites and I got them all done. Unfortunately, the nursing program did not work out as I was hoping, but I found out about the Surgical Technician program, which is the avenue I will be pursuing. I'll be assisting Doctors in the O.R.

E.Q: Do your sensibilities match this choice?

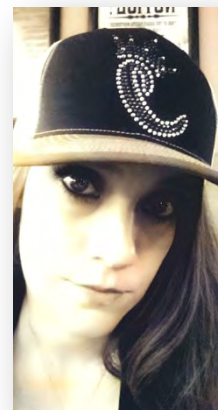
Kati: I think so. I was a medical assistant before I started working at The Elizabeth. I've always had a fascination for the medical field. One of my first jobs was as a Caregiver.

E.Q: I know we will all miss you in the mornings. How did you feel running the Lead shift?

Kati: I liked it. I never had anyone ask me to do that before; it was a learning curve, but I liked it. Now it's four years on. To be honest, I am not an early morning person, and one of the challenges was rising to the occasion. The joy was seeing everyone more often and getting to know everyone a little bit better.

E.Q: Any favorite stories?

Kati: Oh my gosh, there are so many. One of my favorite ones is one of our residents' dogs was coming down the hallway from the Plaza entrance. He usually got a treat every morning, but this particular morning, and I don't know how he got up the speed to do it, he jumped on the counter, the owner said, I don't know how he did that. He is not coordinated like that. I thought that was funny.



E.Q: What should we look forward to with Terrin assuming lead duties?

Kati: I think she is good with the residents and knows all the procedures we have in place. It's a big building. There are a lot of moving parts to it. You never stop learning at this job. She's personable, takes on tasks she is assigned easily, and excels.

E.Q: Thank you, Kati. You assumed The Elizabeth Concierge lead role at a difficult time and have done a marvelous job.

Terrin joins the conversation.



E.Q: Terrin, give us a little of your background.

Terrin: I am originally from New Mexico and grew up in Los Angeles. I lived there until the end of 2014. I mainly worked in restaurants for my professional career up until the Pandemic. So I was back in New Mexico with my family. I have three cats and a dog, I play the violin, mainly trained in classical throughout school. One of my favorite things to do is play video games; my boyfriend and I always play video games all the time.

E.Q: How do you like the job being the Concierge at The Elizabeth?

Terrin: I like it. It's been super fun and fabulous. Everyone has been very welcoming. I like the environment; I take pride in the tasks I have been given running efficiently. So yes, it has been a pleasant experience.

E.Q: Big change is coming with you moving into the Lead role. Are you happy to embrace it?

Terrin: Yes, I am excited, and I feel honored I was considered to do so. That is a really nice feeling. I also think it is something I will undertake and do very well.

E.Q: Any favorite stories to share about your time here so far?

Terrin: Well, I had a resident come down the other day to pick up food delivery in his socks and underwear. He had on shirt cuffs and a collar with a tie. He rolled his eyes and said, "my fiancé." I could not stop laughing. So that was a favorite moment.

E.Q: It is so fitting we have you here to support Kati's embrace of a new field, and your abilities have been sufficient and excellent.

Terrin: I appreciate that, thank you.

E.Q welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: EQ@ElizabethLofts.org

RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANN SACKS

By Steve Rose

S.R. I have the pleasure of sitting here with Ann Sacks, my first friend in Oregon. She is a wonderful person with a tremendous heart.

Ann, every time I walk out of The Elizabeth on to 9th Avenue heading north, the first thing I see is *Ann Sacks*. That is your name on the store?



First Show Room (1981)

A.S. It is, but I have not owned it since 1989. I started the store in 1981 in NW Portland on NW 23rd, then opened stores in Seattle around 1985 and Vancouver BC around 1988.

In 1989, I approached the Kohler Company with a marketing idea. For some time, Mr. Kohler had been looking for a tile company to buy but never felt he had the right fit. He was looking at large companies. I was a tiny little company that would have been very out of character for him to buy, but he ended up buying it. After that occurred, I went on to open another 16 to 18 stores. When we were discussing the purchase, I told him the fastest way to fame is to call it Kohler Tile, but that was not his plan, saying "I love your name and we will call it Ann Sacks." I laughed and said it would be a lot easier for me to do business as Kohler Tile than Ann Sacks. The acquisition was in 1989 and I stayed until 2003.

S.R. Mr. Kohler just died, didn't he?

A.S. Yes, two weeks this Saturday.

S.R. Was your relationship with him good?

A.S. Excellent! I corresponded with him every Christmas. I'd send a gift and he would send a handwritten note. A few years ago, he was quite ill, semi-incapacitated for the better part of a year. After he was better, I flew to Milwaukee to see him and have dinner with him, then I flew home.

S.R. Where did you grow up?

A.S. I grew up in Detroit, in the city. I went to public schools. Detroit was incredible at that time. I was born in 1949. Detroit was massively involved in the war effort and all that investment into infrastructure carried over into the auto industry. People came back from the war, and they could afford to buy a house, buy a car, buy a washing machine. So,

the people who were entrepreneurial took advantage. It was a thriving community until of course it wasn't.

S.R. Was your family entrepreneurial?

A.S. Yes, my father was an entrepreneur.

S.R. What did your dad do?

A.S. Well, he was the oldest of four children. He came to this country when he was two. He emerged as a caregiver for the family. He was selling apples on the street at five or six years old. When he was 14, he was given a scholarship to Michigan and skipped high school all together. He became a waiter in the Jewish fraternity serving people who could afford college. He never finished college as he got called home to work full time and opened a pawn shop. The people from Motown came in to pawn their instruments. Berry Gordy came in and asked my father to invest in his record label, but my dad declined. He had the pawn shop, and he began investing in apartment buildings.

" It was awesome, it was perfect, it was great!"

S.R. What was it like growing up in Detroit?

A.S. It was awesome, it was perfect, it was great! I really loved it.

S.R. Did you graduate from public high school?

A.S. No. The year before I went to high school, I was in a very unfortunate incident with a knife and my parents decided to send me to a private school.

S.R. Did you go to college?

A.S. I went to Michigan and that is where I met Robert, my husband. We got married when we were juniors in college.

S.R. And you are still together.

A.S. Yes. We have been together 54 years this month September and married 52 years.

S.R. What did you study at the university?

A.S. I was an English major with a degree in secondary education. When I got out of school, I taught at one of the most rural middle schools attached to the city of Springfield, Oregon.

S.R. Was the University of Michigan a good experience?

A.S. Hmm, it's a blur. We lived with a lot of very radical people. Everyone's focus at that time was the war and removing the president of the University as we felt he was not properly anti-war enough.

S.R. After Michigan, where did you go?

A.S. We came here to Oregon with our pets. I think we had three kitties at the time. Robert attended the University of Oregon in Eugene.

S.R. What were your feelings about moving to Oregon?

A.S. I have to say I probably didn't think much about it {laughs}. I had no visual of what it would be like at all. What we knew was Ken Kesey was here doing his thing and it was a laid-back kind of place compared to say,

Boston. For Robert, University of Oregon had very low tuition and he got a scholarship.

" . . . become independent"

S.R. So you did not have to be dependent on anybody?

A.S. That was a big thing. I recommend all young people become independent, so they don't stay in the routine and perspective of their parents.

S.R. What did you teach at Thurston Middle School?

A.S. I taught English to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. I ended up creating my own course. I had this principal who was born and raised in Springfield. He was kind of a country boy but extremely progressive and enlightened. He understood the limiting perspectives of growing up in that community. So, I created a course about the Holocaust and another about bullying. I used books to teach, so there was a literary aspect to it. We were reading books and writing reports. The kids had to watch *World at War* and write about it every Sunday. So, they were learning reading and writing skills, but I was teaching it in the context of subjects I thought were really important for the kids in that community to learn about.

S.R. How did the kids receive this course of study?

A.S. One of the kids came to live with me and I am very close to her still. It was received very well. Certainly, there were some parents that did not receive it well. But the kids were interested in learning something that they knew nothing about. And they certainly needed to have the discussions about how they treated one another.

S.R. After Robert finished law school, you both moved to Portland?

A.S. Yes. Another decision I would like to say was analytical, but it wasn't.

S.R. What did you do when you came to Portland?

A.S. When I first got here, I spent a lot of time looking for work. I went to Portland State to update my teaching credentials so I could position myself to teach again. Then I ended up getting a job as a social worker with the Janus Program which is still around. It is a very wonderful program. I was a coach, teaching children how to work, how to have a job. And I was out recruiting employers to allow these children to have opportunities.

S.R. How long did you work for the Janus Program?

A.S. For a few years - maybe three or four. At the same time, I had this little incident where I walked into a store and saw tiles that I loved and thought we could tile bathrooms. We ended up tiling the floor in our house in Eastmoreland with terra cotta tiles and before too long I was in my store on NW 23rd selling tiles.

S.R. Before we talk about that, around the time of the Janus Project you had an entrepreneurial interest in real estate, correct?

A.S. Yes, the first house we bought in Eugene we sold a year and half later for quite a bit. So, we were able to buy the house in Eastmoreland, the smallest house in the neighborhood. We started scraping money together and buying small properties and converting them from residential to office. With some partners, we bought a six plex on SE 21st. Robert is still in that business today.

S.R. Now let's talk about tile. What else comes to mind regarding your early work in tile?

A.S. The man who ran the store where I saw that first tile gave me the name of a woman in Arizona who was an importer of terra cotta tile. She was a delightful independent businesswoman and I started sending trucks down to pick up the tiles. I began running small ads in the Oregonian with tile for sale and my phone number. Then, all of the sudden developers were calling me for this tile, and I was selling truckloads. That was special and I lived through the cycle, the height of terra cotta tile and the demise of it in Oregon. At the time in the industry, large pieces of porcelain tile became the big thing. Spain and Italy, through efficiencies, created very affordable porcelain tile and, for a moderate price, you could have porcelain flooring in your home. So, interest shifted from hand crafted to industrial. That was in the early 1990's. I moved into selling more sophisticated European painted tiles. In my business, I have always been a product person. When I had the three stores, I always worked really hard on product.

S.R. Back to Kohler. When you signed your deal with Kohler, you only had three stores and you became a division of Kohler. Is that correct?

A.S. Yes. There is one aspect of my dealing with Kohler which I think is very compelling. When I met with him for the first time, he had a card from my Seattle store which, with a big smile, he placed on the table. He said his daughter Rachel was in Seattle and happened to drive by my store. Knowing that her father was interested in buying a tile store, she ran in and got my card. He never contacted me but when my name came up, he knew it was the same store Rachel wanted him to look at.



S.R. I heard a rumor that you were one of Kohler's most successful divisions. Is that true?

A.S. From the perspective of return on investment, we were not the highest revenue generator, but yes it was very successful for Kohler. Mr. Kohler approved of the brand, and it was financially successful.

S.R. When did you leave Kohler?

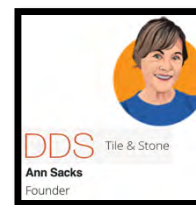
A.S. I left in 2003. I was travelling a lot opening showrooms and going to trade shows. I was gone a lot. My daughter was about to enter junior high school and I did not want to travel so much. Mr. Kohler urged me to stay and take on a more creative director role and travel less. I tried it for a bit, but it did not work as I had hoped. I had been there 14 years. Let's just say, it was a good run, and it was time to leave.

S.R. When you left did you have a non-compete clause?

A.S. I did, it was two years.

S.R. And after two years, did you start another tile company?

A.S. I did. It was very much by happenstance. A friend who was a condominium developer called me to say the tile selections for a new project were starting to go a little sideways. So I sat in on a meeting and I gave them my advice on what I would do. Something clicked and I realized I really like working with developers, finding it to be a much more fun challenge. It was a good fit for my personality, trying to find great looking tile and finding good deals. It's pretty easy to buy expensive tile but it is really a fun challenge to find tile that can go into 400 units at a budget that includes homes valued from \$350,000 to \$700,000. That is a challenge I enjoy. So, I started a commercial tile company, Design & Direct Source. This was in 2007- 2008, a tough time financially for the country. I hung in there and I sold that company in 2016.



S.R. I recall you doing work for Starbucks and the JFK Terminal in New York City. Is that correct?

A.S. Yes. I did the TWA Terminal that was designed by Eero Saarinen in 1962. It was a historic monument. When they wanted to renovate it, one of the signature things were these very small tiles. It took me over a year to find them and they would not move the project forward without approving my selections. Finally, to get this very white tile, I called someone we used at Ann Sacks for our chemicals. I asked her, if you were trying to get

a porcelain tile whiter than what is currently on the market today, where would you go? She said Switzerland. I called Switzerland. We had a sample sent to the factory in China that had been working on this for over a year. Finally, we got the match we needed. You asked me earlier how I source things? That's kind of my process.

S.R. Another rumor that I heard was, when you had meetings across the country you would bake a cake, carry it on the plane and bring it to the meeting.

A.S. So here is the protocol. It was mostly in New York where I was trying to build the business. I would have three and one-half days of appointments. I would figure out that I needed four cakes cut in sixths. I'd get to my hotel and I would have them put the pieces in the freezer. Each morning, I would take the number of pieces I needed out of the freezer. I would bake them in Portland and carry them across the country. They were blueberry sour cream cakes. They must have been good because when I made appointments in the future, everybody reminded me that they were fully expecting the cakes. It was my sense of appreciation for the people taking the time to meet with me.

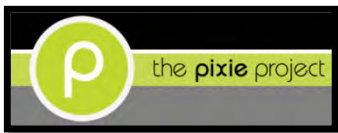
S.R. You are no longer in the tile business, is that correct?

A.S. I am still consulting for Design & Direct Source. That is about 20 to 30 hours per month.

S.R. Do you miss the business?

A.S. I miss some of my vendors and customers, but I do see them at the shows. I've made some really nice friendships both on the supply side and the selling side.

S.R. Let's talk about your charitable ventures. I know one is animal rescue. Let's talk about that.



A.S. When our daughter was in college at the University of Iowa, she worked as a volunteer with a veterinarian who did mobile work out in the countryside. She also volunteered for the county that did rescue for animals who were under duress and abuse. Additionally, she worked in a store that also did animal rescue. She came home from Iowa and said, "I have a vision for how to do animal rescue somewhat differently, a hybrid of all the things I experienced." We had a property on MLK which was leased to a doggie day care. We knew the tenant was slightly disinterested, so we bought out her lease and turned it into the Pixie Project. That was 15 years ago. Our daughter Amy is still very much involved, and we have added a low-cost veterinary service.

Now we are donating a 5,000-square-foot space on NW Hoyt between 9th and 10th to be used for a rescuing and adopting pet service. As the county's service becomes minimal, we feel this is an area where we can help. We get calls all the time. One example is a tenant vacates in the middle of the night leaving three starving cats behind. When the county can't help for whatever reason, they call Pixie. After covid, we ran out of room on MLK, so that is why we are donating this space on NW Hoyt to Pixie. Pixie does about 1,000 adoptions a year, but they do a whole lot of coaching and training to keep animals in place. And they do at least 2,000 surgeries per year.

S.R. How is Pixie financed?

A.S. At the beginning, it was financed by our family. Then we developed a donor base of wonderful people, and we have numerous volunteers. Older cats need a lot of dental surgery, and we have this wonderful donor who is helping people with fixed income to meet the financial needs for their senior cats. We are giving the property and Pixie is covering the operating expenses of the new center.

S.R. This is fantastic, and I know this did not start with Amy going to school in Iowa. You have had a long-term interest in animal rescue.

A.S. Yes, that is true. All our pets have been rescued.

S.R. Beside the Pixie Project, what other passions have you turned to in the charitable world?

A.S. We have served in the Jewish Community for quite some time on boards and as donors. As we became more involved with rescue, we stepped back a little from the former as each required a sizeable amount of time and resources. We have a child from Big Sisters Big Brothers. I call him a child, but he is 6'2". Dino came into our lives at seven years old and he has just turned 22 years old. We also have a farm in Oregon City, with the original thought to rescue large animals, but we weren't there enough to manage that. We ended up taking care of two horses and some sheep.

" . . . engaging with people to make their day better."

S.R. What are your plans and aspirations for the future?

A.S. To position Amy on the rescue side to create a larger vision so that, in her lifetime, things are dramatically better. And, to create a vision for what it means to do spay and neuter, so we can deal with the supply side of the problem in the most humanitarian, institutional way. We think this can be accomplished and we can then talk about humanely managing animals in our communities.

To be there for my son David, his wife, and my grandkids. To be a model to our grandchildren about things like engaging with people to make their day better. If you are being served by people, you want to have an interaction that is meaningful for both of you, instead of one that is transactional or dismissive.

S.R. Ann, I hope your kids and grandkids can accomplish a portion of what you have done. I am not talking businesswise, but the goodness you have spread around. This has been my pleasure!

A.S. Thank you, Steve.



EQ welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: EQ@ElizabethLofts.org

RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

A vertical photograph of a street lined with trees in vibrant autumn foliage, primarily red and orange. The street has tram tracks and parked cars.

Course

NW Flanders St

NW Everett St

NW Davis St

NW Couch St

NW 9th Ave

NW 10th Ave

NW 11th Ave

NW 12th Ave

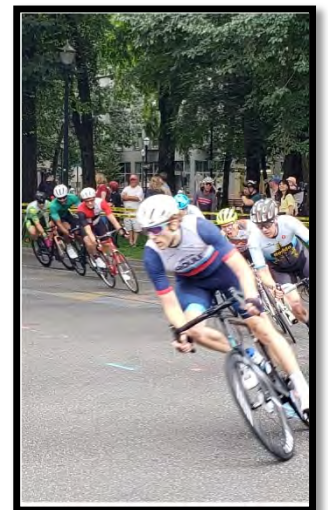
NW 13th Ave

NW 14th Ave



The race is described as 40 minutes, but this is not quite right. About 30 minutes into the

The other tactic in bike racing is to draft off the leader. Being in front, you experience full wind resistance, but the leader breaks the wind (keep your mind and bike out of the gutter!) and the racers behind the leader have less wind resistance and don't have to work as hard. This allows them to save their energy for later in the race. This is why you often see the leader change early in a race. But in this race with this course, passing can take more energy than being in front.





The other wrinkle in the race is that it combines a bicycle race and the live action version of Frogger – an ancient video game where frogs try to cross a busy road without getting crushed by traffic. There are several points along the course where spectators can cross over the course.

At the beginning of a race, the racers are bunched together and officials with yellow flags can easily direct spectators when to cross. As the race goes on, the racers spread out and some are even lapped, and it makes crossing the course very entertaining. More sane spectators just lean against the fencing and enjoy being very close to the action.

In addition to the race, there were food trucks and drinks, and Fat Tire supplied the beer. There was some merch to buy and OBRA hosted a booth as well.



If you care about the results, you can find them on [OBRA's web site](#). If you missed the races or you just want more, you can check out their [2022 schedule](#).



EQ welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: EQ@ElizabethLofts.org

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Elizabeth Celebrates the End of Summer

By Chris Steele
with photographs by Walden Kirsch

Many of us gathered on the plaza for great conversation, enjoyable music, and fabulous food.

A thank you to Walden Kirsch who was on hand to take photos of the event.



Music was provided by DJ Vincent Toma who happily conversed with parties enjoying his tunes.

We were lucky to have Gallo Nero, our neighbor, provide the tasty selection of savory dishes; there were many second helpings of the delicious lasagnas, wonderful meat and veggie skewers, and pasta salads.





Libations were also available – both alcoholic and non.



The tables were decorated with festive flowers making the evening a true celebration.



Overall, Elizabethans know how to have a good time!

EQ welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: EQ@ElizabethLofts.org

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

FABIOLA CARDENAS

SPARKLY GOWNS

By Bob Garsha

EQ: Hi Fabiola. You just opened your shop Sparkly Gowns. Tell us a little about yourself.

FC: My name is Fabiola Cardenas and I was born in a small town called "Malaga" located in the majestic mountains of Colombia (South America).



EQ: Where were you raised?

FC: I was raised in our small town where I had a happy infancy and completed my elementary and high school studies. Being a teenager, I moved to a bigger city (as big as Portland) where I attended college. I finished my career at 21 years old and I worked in different companies in Colombia. Then I moved to Argentina where I found my true love and we married. His name is Cristian and I have a daughter Marianela and a son Francesco.

QE: What did you study in school? Were you always interested in fashion?

FC: My grade was not related to the fashion industry. I'm an accountant and I obtained a Master's in Finance Management. I worked very hard for companies, and I learned a lot about how to manage a business. However, I started to feel bored with my job, given it was repetitive and monotonous. I love to create new things and my job was always the same. I wanted to be a businesswoman and work with international commerce and seek opportunities around the world.

I always had a real attraction to fashion and formal dresses. In Colombia pageants and ceremonies are an important aspect of our culture, full of bright and shiny colors. Then in Argentina, I learned about other aspects of elegance, a lot of them driven by the elegance of Tango.

At the time I was engaged, I saw the opportunity of importing formal clothes to Colombia and exporting clothes from Colombia to other countries. I started to travel abroad to learn more,



get inspiration, and for networking around the formal fashion industry. I was fascinated by the infinite world of the fashion industry. When I was prepared, I created the brand "**Orquideas Dresses**" to sell formal clothes online when e-commerce was not very popular. Then with the boom of social media, my brand grew in popularity. When we moved to the United States of America, I created the brand "*Sparkly Gowns*." My mission is to

provide our customers with a curated selection of unique designs from designers around the world.

EQ: Are there fashionistas in your family?

FC: My parents are both teachers. My mother is always very elegant and classy. When we were kids, my mother made our clothes and I loved to go with her to the sewing classes. She was very inspirational and talented to me. At that moment, we couldn't afford many clothes so she decided to learn and sew our clothes herself.

When my lovely girl was born, I had the idea to include magic dresses for ceremonies and special occasions for little girls. Something similar happened when my little boy was born when I started seeking boy's attire. I am passionate about children's collections. This is still my favorite line of clothing.

EQ: We are so happy to have you here. What attracted you to the building?

FC: I am more than happy to be here. Every day I receive visits from people who give a smile, provide a compliment, and express to me good wishes. It is very important for me. Even though my workplace is far from our home, I think it was the right decision. My husband and I were attracted by the strategic location in the area. We saw that the neighborhood is recovering after a difficult situation last year, and definitely we wanted to be a part of it with our small business, to find new opportunities and make new friends!

EQ: How often will the designs change?

FC: The formal clothes collections are changed two times a year. We have a collection for Spring/Summer and another for Fall/Winter. This was challenging for me too. I had to learn about the seasons and how everything changes according to the weather. We always have the same weather in Colombia (there is summer weather the whole year), so we don't have to worry about different colors and fabrics for our clothes.

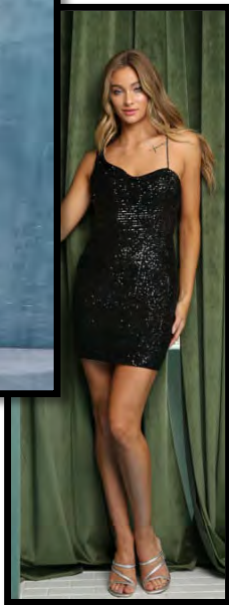
EQ: If you were going out for the perfect night, what would you wear?

FC: It depends on the occasion and the dress code. We should wear the attire and the color that gives us confidence in any way. I think the night is perfect for shining (inside and out) adding some sparkle to the attire.



*“Every woman in this world wears a little sparkle,
some in their dress,
and some in their eyes”*

Shahla Khan



EQ: Fashion is so much fun. Any advice for our readers on dressing with just the right amount of attitude?

FC: I think we don't have to wait until the perfect moment to wear a fancy dress. Every day is a beautiful day to celebrate our life and elevate our beauty. We definitely have to create more special moments for dressing up and having fun.

Dressing up is like mental therapy. Wearing the right outfit may change your confidence, and make you feel strong and powerful. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be here and share my experiences with the readers. We are thrilled about the warm welcome that all new neighbors offered to me and my family. You are all invited to come to visit us, and I would be more than happy to hear about your personal stories and provide any dressing advice for your special moments as well!

Sparkly Gowns
921 NW Everett St, Portland, OR 97209
(208) 227-3790
<https://www.sparklygowns.com/>



EQ welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: EQ@ElizabethLofts.org

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



REEL TALK

Bandits (2001)

By Faith Smith

Back in 2004 I broke my ankle quite badly and ended up bedridden for two months. During my convalescence a girlfriend dropped off dinner one night, along with a nifty little DVD player contraption, very high tech, with one DVD inside: **Bandits**, released in 2001. **Bandits** stars Bruce Willis as Joe Blake, a prisoner at Oregon State Penitentiary, Billy Bob Thornton as his sidekick, Terry Collins, and Cate Blanchett as Kate Wheeler, a frustrated housewife.

Action movies have never been my jam, but I've always loved any film with a strong female lead. So, with my leg propped up on a mountain of pillows I was a captive audience. I pressed *play*. Little did I know then that this would become one of my favorite movies of all time.



The action begins with a heavily muscled, ponytailed Joe punching the daylights out of his opponent in a boxing ring. He's getting carried away, punching too hard, too long. There's blood. Here I might expect a violent clash of security guards and inmates. Instead, we have a pale, geeky Terry imploring from the sidelines, "Anger management, Joe! Anger management!"

"... HOW COULD THESE TWO HAVE ENDED UP IN THE SAME PLACE?"

I love an unlikely duo as much as the next person. Joe is an ungovernable brute and Terry is a hyper-articulate bundle of nerves—how could these two have ended up in the same place? This movie is a celebration of the clash of opposites.

I hate car chases, but somehow this movie makes them seem more entertaining, funny even. The cement truck that Joe and Terry steal to make their escape is still dutifully churning cement as they plow through a long strip of suburban backyards, leaving toppled fences and treehouses and swing sets in their wake.

Other comedic gems include those moments when crime intersects with charm. Careening into a paved street, Joe suddenly hits the brakes and leaps out of the truck to flag down an oncoming car to steal. A prettily coiffed woman emerges from the Subaru, confused yet willing to obey. "Ma'am, we're going to need to borrow your car." As the bewildered victim exits, he says, "That's a really lovely dress. Don't forget your purse."

In another stellar scene, while holding a bank manager's family hostage at their dinner table, Terry attempts to promote a civilized and orderly atmosphere, remarking on the seasoning of the sauce, sharing cooking tips, and helping cut a child's plate of food while the bank manager's wife sobs uncontrollably into her spaghetti.

" . . GRABS THE KEYS TO THE MERCEDES AND HITS THE ROAD."

Meanwhile, in another suburban household, Kate Wheeler is ready to spring from her own prison of sorts. We find her in her kitchen cooking a romantic meal for her husband while singing and dancing to Bonnie Tyler's *I Need a Hero*, flinging flour into the air like fairy dust. When she finds out he, once again, won't be home for dinner, she smashes a lamp, grabs the keys to the Mercedes and hits the road.

Driving in a daze, she doesn't see Terry as he attempts to flag her down to steal her car. She doesn't stop in time though, and he ends up splayed across her windshield. Panicked but not seriously hurt, he gets in and pulls out a gun.

Kate says, "Oh, go ahead and shoot. It would be an improvement, believe me."

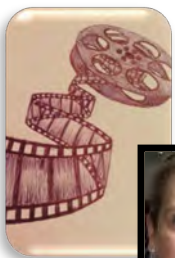
" . . BOTH MEN DEMAND SHE MAKE A CHOICE, BUT. . ."

More of the unexpected, as geeky Terry brings the unhinged but alluring Kate back to the hideout where Joe is waiting. Of course, all laws of the universe dictate that Joe and Kate end up together. What we don't anticipate—and certainly Terry doesn't—is that Kate and Terry end up having a romance of their own. Fighting for her affection, both men demand she make a choice, but Kate refuses: "Between the two of you, you're the perfect man!" Bonnie and Clyde and Clyde. Take *that*, predictable plotline!

Another great thing about this movie is the radical departure each character takes from where they began. Tough-guy Joe evolves into a sensitive partner and loyal friend. Itchy, hypochondriac Terry is emboldened by new-found success in crime and love. And Kate, the rich but neglected housewife, finds passion and purpose in her life as an outlaw.

When I first saw this in 2004, I was living in New Jersey. I had no idea I'd be living in Oregon all these years later. Re-watching this film, I now recognize scenes filmed on Portland's Broadway Bridge and Naito Parkway, both just walking distance from the Elizabeth.

Finally, I love this movie for the soundtrack, a stellar blend of late 20th Century hits and cool, original sounds that evoke the feeling of the Pacific Northwest. You can buy or rent **Bandits** on Amazon Prime Video, and you can also view it on iTunes, Google Play, and Vudu.



Faith Smith has been a contributor to the EQ Newsletter in the past. Check out some of her articles in previous issues:

- [EQ 1](#) Giorgio restaurant review
- [EQ 6](#) Book Review Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey
- [EQ 8](#) Goodwill Hunting 2.0.

Fortunately, she has agreed to write a "regular" article on movie reviews! We look forward to future reports.



EQ welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: EQ@ElizabethLofts.org

RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS



GREETINGS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Bill Melcher

I've been asked to regularly provide a few words about our Community Library, which is comprised of four bookshelves of resident-donated books located in our Community Room.

". . . FICTION, WHICH INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 80 TO 90 VOLUMES. "

As I've previously noted, the shelves are divided into multiple categories. Today, I wanted to highlight our largest section, Fiction, which includes approximately 80 to 90 volumes. This does not include other subsections, such as Mystery, Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Romance, which I will try to highlight in the future.

The more than three shelves devoted to Fiction have famous titles including *A Hologram for the King* by Dave Eggers, *The Horse Whisperer* by Nicholas Evans, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* by Fannie Flagg, *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple, as well as two books donated by me, *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah, one of my all-time favorite reads, and the short story, *Brokeback Mountain* by Annie Proulx. Besides these, there are scores of titles that I've never heard of much less read.

". . . AND HEAD INTO NINE MONTHS OF RAIN"

As we leave behind summer reading and head into nine months of rain, if you're looking for an amazing assortment of fiction, feel free to peruse YOUR library first prior to walking the few blocks to Powell's.



Bill Melcher, the Elizabeth Librarian, has brought order to our community room library. He has agreed to write a "regular" article on the status of the collection. We look forward to future reports.



EQ welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: EQ@ElizabethLofts.org

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

HAPPENING IN and AROUND THE ELIZABETH

Compiled By Chris Steele

In The Elizabeth

ANNUAL HOA MEETING: The annual meeting for Elizabeth Lofts owners will take place in person this year at the Ecotrust Building on **Tuesday, December 20, 2022, beginning at 6 PM.** Please plan to attend. More information about the meeting will be distributed in November.

Here at the Elizabeth, we are dedicated to creating a neighborly environment. Listed below are some of the opportunities to become involved and meet other residents.



Book Club – The [Elizabeth Book Club](#) continues meeting on the second Monday of each month at 4:30, usually in the Elizabeth Community room. The book for November will be Angle of Repose, by Wallace Stegner. Listings of past books, future reading plans and contact information can be found on The [Elizabeth website](#).



Welcome Committee – The mission of this group is to generally make the Elizabeth Lofts a more warm and friendly place. Being involved in this group is a great opportunity to meet and welcome new residents to our community. If this interests you, please contact Bob Garsha at welcome@elizabethlofts.org to offer your help.



Community Committee - We are residents just like you. Our passion is to establish a vibrant culture here at The Elizabeth. Connecting individuals through social activities we feel is the essence of the Community. We hope you join us as often as you can. You ask we listen. Residents can make suggestions for events. Reach us at Community@elizabethlofts.org.

EQ – The newsletter you are reading right now! Contributing to this publication is an opportunity to exercise your creative muscles. We need writers, photographers, editors and graphic designers and artists. Contact us at EQ@elizabethlofts.org to volunteer. We would love guest contributors as well, if you have something fun to share with neighbors.

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 either in an ongoing capacity 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 can help, contact ELEC at elec.leads@elizabethlofts.org.

Yoga – This new group has begun meeting on Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Community Room. All are welcome to join this class which is open to all levels of experience including beginners. For more information contact yoga@elizabethlofts.org.



Events Websites to Check Out

Covid-19 attendance policies are still in effect in some venues and can vary and change at any time. Requirements may be determined by each performance, so it is important to verify before attending.

[Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts](#) has a large variety of scheduled live events at local venues. This is a handy site for browsing entertainment opportunities throughout the area.

[Portland Center Stage at the Armory](#) has a variety of events on their schedule including dramatic and musical theater and even offer some free events. Beginning [improvisation classes](#) are also available for a more participatory theater experience. For those not yet ready for live performances, there are [recordings of virtual offerings](#) still available.

The [Portland Mercury](#) has listings of things to do around town, from free events and festivals to events supporting activism and social justice. Articles on current events and politics are available to browse.

[Oregon Festivals and Events](#) has a calendar full of future events throughout the state if you are looking for something new to do.

Check out a wide variety of [live concerts](#) coming to Portland.

For those more interested in classical music, [Chamber Music Northwest](#) has posted their 2022-2023 season.



Check out the [Oregon Symphony](#), including [livestream concert](#) tickets are for those not yet ready to go to an in-person event.

The [Oregon Ballet Theater](#) has subscription packages for the 2022-23 season on sale.

[Broadway](#) in Portland has some musical and non-musical productions coming this season including [To Kill A Mockingbird](#).

Enjoy a mysteriously delightful dinner at the [Dinner Detective](#) at the Embassy Suites downtown. It is America's largest interactive comedy murder mystery dinner show; the menu looks enticing, and the event sounds hilarious.



Jazz lovers should check out events coming to the [Jack London Revue](#) or enjoy a relaxing evening of dinner and music at [Wilfs](#).

WILLAMETTE WEEK

Check out [Willamette Week](#) for lots of great music and fun things to do

[First Thursday Street Gallery](#) – April through October, on 13th Ave. between Hoyt and Kearney

Ready for a Night at the Movies?

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

For a larger than life experience check out what there is to see on the IMAX screen at [OMSI](#).



Holiday Fun

Looking for something fun to do on Halloween? Check out the [Halloween events](#) around Portland to celebrate this spooky season.



Hip Chicks are also offering a [Halloween Candy and Wine Pairing](#) event.

Portland also has offerings for the [Thanksgiving](#) season, including optional restaurants and volunteering opportunities.

[Christmas Events](#) include the annual favorites including the Zoolights, BrewLights, The Christmas Ship Parade and of course the Nutcracker ballet.

If you are looking for options to celebrate the [New Year](#), Portland offers a variety of events.



EQ welcomes your comments on this article or the Issue: EQ@ElizabethLofts.org

RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS