

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

March 2023

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SunnysidePortland.org

board@sunnysideportland.org

News from the President

By Chris Waldmann, SNA President

Hi Neighbors! I'm writing this in the aftermath of the big February snowstorm. Sunnyside looks beautiful with the sun shining off the fresh snow. Hopefully, when you read this, spring will be showing its green face again!

During the February board meeting we focused on land use — specifically revitalizing our Land Use and Transportation Committee. We had several folks join us who are interested in this important work and we voted to create a committee. We are moving forward with choosing a chair and establishing some priorities for Sunnyside. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact us at board@sunnysideportland.org.

We are still searching for new board members and officers for the SNA. Elections will be held in May. Please contact us at board@sunnysideportland.org if you'd like to learn more.

We look forward to seeing you in March at our next general meeting on March 9th at 7:00 p.m. Keep an eye on the website (sunnysideportland.org) for agenda details. As always, if you have something you'd like to discuss or learn more about, we'd love to hear from you!

What's Your Preparedness Story?

By Jan S Molinaro, Co-Chair, Sunnyside Prepared!

For those of you who don't know me, I'm a Sunnyside Neighborhood Emergency Team (aka NET) member and I'm tasked with encouraging all Sunnysiders to be prepared, not scared.

I'm shifting the focus of my news articles for the rest of 2023 to hearing and sharing your efforts, successes, and even frustrations with preparedness within your own families and blocks. We learn best from stories, so think about sharing yours with me. The best way to reach me is via email at jansmolinaro@gmail.com.

Once you've emailed me, I will reply with a series of questions assessing where you are in your efforts to be prepared. I would also be willing to meet in person or via Zoom to chat once you have answered my follow-up questions. Then I will write an article for the newsletter, which, depending on space limitations, would be published sometime in 2023.

Looking forward to hearing from you and sharing your stories. Happy 2023.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Community Cares (SNACC) Committee Updates

By Hannah Wallace, SNACC Member, SNA Vice President

We had a strong turnout at our February meeting, where we discussed the Sunnyside Shower Project's (SSP) protocols on how to deal with guests who exhibit harmful or dangerous behaviors. Special guest Sandra Comstock, from Hygiene4All, shared some ideas on how they deal with harm to their community. The SSP has a "Code of Conduct" that we hang in our space at the Groves but we have not yet written down a policy for "incident protocols." We hope to do that in the coming weeks. One helpful tidbit that Comstock shared is to come at the incident with curiosity. If a person who is houseless is acting out, there is usually something going on for them and finding out what that is and (if possible) helping them solve that issue is a good place to start.

We also discussed the possibility of the SSP becoming its own nonprofit, separate from the SNA. There are pros and cons to this—one pro being that we would be eligible for a wider variety of grants and funding. On the other hand, many of us like the fact that we're showing that Neighborhood Associations can be a force for good in their communities. We don't want to lose the grassroots nature of the SSP, which is one of the qualities that makes it so special. Matt Lembo offered to help with this process, if the SSP decides to become its own nonprofit.

Finally, we are hoping to off-load the furniture that's in our storage unit on 82nd St. If anyone needs bookshelves, lamps, or other household items, let us know.

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Upcoming Meetings

Check sunnysideportland.org in advance for location details and agenda.

March Meetings

March 9: 7:00 - 8:30 pm SNA General
March 9: 8:30 - 9:00 pm SNA Board
March 16: 6:30 - 8:00 pm SNACC

April Meetings

April 13: 7:00 - 8:00 pm SNA Board
April 20: 6:30 - 8:00 pm SNACC

We are willing to give these items away in exchange for a donation to the SSP! Contact Emily at emmccadden@gmail.com if you're interested.

As always, if you're interested in supporting the SSP, either financially or by joining our growing volunteer pool, please email sunnysideshowerproject@gmail.com to learn more.



Reverend Leroy Barber of Groves Church and Grinds & Vines.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Getting to Know Your Neighbors

*By Hannah Wallace,
SNA Vice President*

Q&A with Reverend Leroy Barber

The Rev. Leroy Barber wears many hats. Formerly Director of Innovation at the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church, Barber is currently the associate pastor at the Groves Church in Sunnyside and the Executive Director of a North Carolina-based nonprofit called Neighborhood Economics, which supports entrepreneurs in disenfranchised neighborhoods. He's also Black Santa PDX. Finally, as if that weren't enough to keep him busy, he just opened a coffee shop, Grinds & Vines, in the basement of the Sunnyside Methodist Church. Barber also loves to wear actual hats—including this red fedora. Stop by to have a latte or pour-over, and give him and his daughter Jessica a big welcome!

How long have you been in Portland?

Leroy: I'm from Atlanta. I came here about ten years ago for a job with a non-

governmental organization called Word Made Flesh, but they've since moved. They work in nine different countries. I've done a lot of work with missions, and international and community development.

Do you live in Sunnyside?

Leroy: No. I live in Southeast Portland but further out, towards Gresham.

Why did you start your business in Sunnyside?

Leroy: I worked for the Methodist Conference for about five years and I invited Sunia [Gibbs, pastor at The Groves Church] and the Groves to be part of this building [the old Sunnyside Methodist Church]—to help renovate it and run it as a community center. A few years ago, we found old pictures—like, twenty years old—showing that there used to be a coffee shop in the basement. So that's what gave me the idea. And I just think Sunnyside is a good neighborhood. It's a close-knit community.

Tell me about the premise of your coffee shop.

Leroy: It's Grinds & Vines. Our tagline is, "A cup for the grind—a glass to unwind." That's the idea—come by in the morning to get your coffee. Come by in the evening for your wine.

How did you get into coffee?

Leroy: I've started coffee shops before when we lived in Atlanta. So, this is the second iteration of that work. I've done some work around the country helping other coffee shops get started, so I decided to do one here. People love coffee here! Although, I'll admit, it's a bit intimidating to start a coffee shop in Portland. You need to do your coffee right! So far so good, though. I'm actually a coffee snob myself.

I was there the first day you opened and was impressed that I could order a pour-over.

Leroy: Yeah. And I hate burnt coffee.

But the coffee shop is really more about the place. It's more about what coffee shops do in a neighborhood. It's a place to go and be, and meet people. Hang out.

Sociologist Ray Oldenburg coined the term for these spaces that are neither work nor home as "third places"—they are key to strengthening community.

Leroy: That's kind of my initial thought around it and it still is. I want people to get to know it and feel like it's their place and their community.

Which coffee roaster or roasters do you feature?

Leroy: All our beans are locally roasted by Rocky Butte Roasters. They're out in Northeast Portland. Our main roast is an Ethiopian medium roast blend, and then we have a darker roast that's Honduran. We also have a decaf blend.

Your hours are 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Why so early?

Leroy: We're looking to expand our hours already. We're finding that people don't really move into the shop until around 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. I'm getting the sense that Sunnyside is a later starting community. So we're going to stay open till 2-3 p.m. I've actually started testing it out this week [mid February] and it's going pretty well. We get folks coming in right around noonish, one-ish.

We started at 7:00 a.m. and we've literally had maybe one person come in during the 4 weeks we've been here. (Laughs.)

Who supplies the pastries and other baked goods?

Leroy: We had a local vegan baker—though I just found out her business is folding. And then we have another baker named Florence E. Jenkins—her business is Nana's Exquisite Confections. Both are black-owned businesses.

You're also planning to open another location, right?

Leroy: Our plan was to open off of Halsey in Northeast—but we ran into a bunch of problems with the building and plumbing. It's slowly moving along but we're starting to think that we may not be able to open in that location.

We just got approved for a grant from Prosper Portland—and we may use that to make some improvements at this spot in Sunnyside. I want to open a location in Northeast but I actually really like the feeling in Sunnyside. The business strips on Hawthorne and Belmont are fine. But I like the neighborhood feel a lot better.

Any upcoming plans?

Leroy: The kitchen has already been approved as a commercial kitchen, but I want to renovate it so that other folks can use it. Let's say you're in the neighborhood and you're a baker and you want to use that kitchen as your kitchen. We want to get it updated and get a new stove in there, a commercial refrigerator, mixers and other equipment.

Like a commissary kitchen?

Leroy: Exactly. We think that will fit in with the vibe. People want to support micro-businesses — especially black and brown businesses. We're going to build that up a little bit.

We can also now host small events of 40 people or less. So, that's been fun. We had a guy come by yesterday who lives in the neighborhood and runs a Scrabble group. He wants to bring his Scrabble group in. We're doing a music and art night this Saturday with Sunia. (She's also an artist and musician.) So we're going to amp up the number of open mics and shows. I'm learning how to make mocktails. I have a liquor license at the other location but not here, yet. If people want to buy bottle of wine from me, though, they can, and then they can open it here if they like.

So how do events work? Do you charge for the space?

Leroy: I don't know about you, but event spaces are so expensive. My goal is to make it as communally friendly as possible. So what we're going to do is charge folks \$50 an hour. But the shop will be open, so if the people who come spend \$50 in the shop, then the space is free. If they spend \$35 then they owe us just \$15.

Is the café handicapped accessible?

Leroy: Yes. There's a ramp that goes down to the basement a bit further east of our entrance. I don't leave it open because we'd get a lot of people wandering in and there are several nonprofits in the church basement. I'm going to get a sign and a remote bell. If someone needs the ramp, they can ring the bell and I can come in and unlock that entrance.

Dog or Cat?

Leroy: Dogs! I don't have a dog—but I definitely prefer dogs.



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Critic's Corner: Tabor Bread

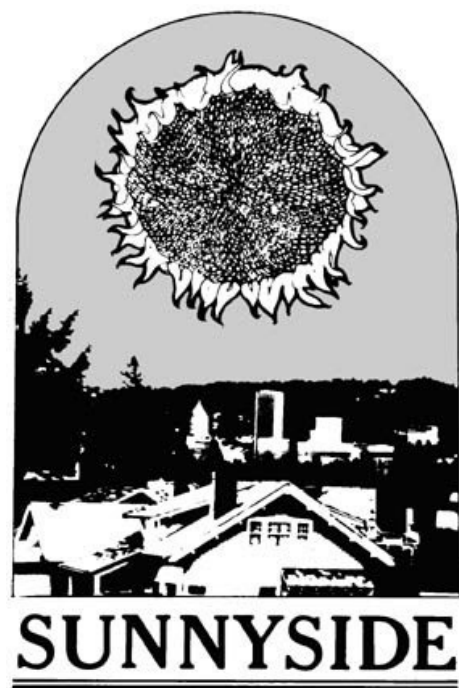
By Katherine Crosato,
age 10, SES student

Tabor Bread is a great local bakery that recently moved to Belmont and 44th from its original location on Hawthorne. Everything is carefully made and always fresh. Everybody there is welcoming and kind. They recently downsized so there is less seating, but this new location is more convenient for my family and still cozy. We always get bread there and we love it. Last Sunday I ordered a croissant sandwich with ham, cheese, aioli and sprouts and to top it off a very good quality mustard. It was great and I would recommend it to anyone. It was crispy and the inside was soft. I loved it! We had only planned to get a few things but ended up getting so many items. All of it smelled and looked amazing. The interior was very nice and comfortable to eat in. The customer service was great and they got things done fast.

I do wish they had more food options. They used to have a huge variety to choose from and I feel like I didn't have much to pick from but I'm sure that will come later. I'm excited for the future outdoor seating which will be a great thing to add considering I couldn't bring my dog inside. I will definitely go back and this is a great local bakery if you're looking for something fresh to eat. That's why I recommend Tabor Bread as your local bakery.

Tabor Bread, 4438 SE Belmont St.; see www.taborbread.com for their weekly bread schedule. Open every day from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Please submit ideas for Critics Corner to Hannah at hannahmwallace@gmail.com



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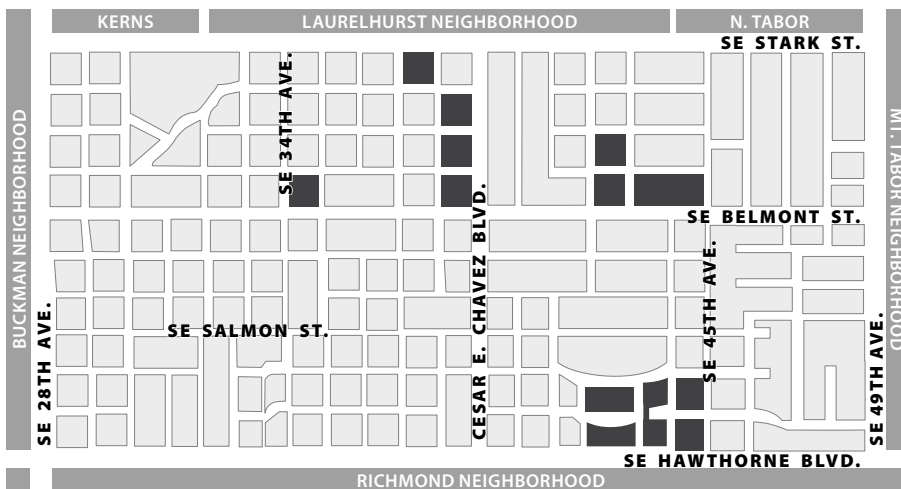
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Sunnyside Neighborhood 'Gap Map'

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