

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

March 2025

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
SunnysidePortland.org board@sunnysideportland.org

News from the President

By Chris Waldmann, SNA President

Hi Sunnyside! Winter is almost over, the flowers are starting to bloom and, if you are like my father-in-law, it's time to get out into your gardens to start planting those peas! The change in weather also means it's time to start planning some summer fun around the neighborhood. There are a couple of great opportunities to help beautify our little neighborhood in the coming months. In May, the pedestrian plaza at 37th and Hawthorne will open and we are going to need help making it a beautiful place to hang out, including street painting, set up, and working on programming. We are also, belatedly, going to repaint the Piazza at 32nd & Yamhill, probably in June. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to me at cjwaldmann@gmail.com.

Please join us on Wednesday, March 12th for a special meeting of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association. For the first time, we will have all three of our district councillors with us to talk about the budget process and their priorities for the new city council. There will be plenty of time to answer neighbors' questions and interact with our elected representatives. Join us at 7 p.m. at SE Uplift (3534 SE Main St) or online!

I'd like to extend a couple of welcomes to new participants in our community. First, welcome to Dennis Behrens as our newest Board member and treasurer. Dennis recently moved back to Portland after years in northern California, where he worked in finance for numerous organizations – private, public and nonprofit. We're excited to have Dennis' experience as we revamp our processes into a more sustainable form. Second, welcome to Ritual Beauty Collective as a new newsletter sponsor.

Thank you RBC for supporting your local neighborhood! If you are interested in promoting your business or event to all of Sunnyside through a tax-deductible newsletter sponsorship, please contact me!

Finally, the SNA will be holding its annual Board elections at our May General meeting. It is a wonderful way to get involved, meet new neighbors and make a difference where you live and/or work. I can testify as to how enriched I have felt from my involvement with the SNA and I hope to remain involved for years to come.

That's it for now. Hopefully we will see you on March 12th for our discussion with Councillors Koyama Lane, Morillo and Novick.

Getting to Know Your Neighbors

By Juan Pablo Garnham,
Guest Writer

Q&A with Lindsay Cogan-Sant, new Project Director of the Sunnyside Shower Project

Three years ago, Lindsay Cogan-Sant arrived in Portland from Chicago and a year later they moved to Sunnyside. "It quickly became my favorite neighborhood that I've lived in," they said. "It's such a tight-knit community. There's a lot of care for everybody and I think that is a unique thing."

Cogan-Sant was already experiencing this tight-knit community as a neighbor with their partner and three cats, working at the Belmont Inn. But in January, they added another dimension to this experience: they became the first paid project director of the Sunnyside Shower Project, thanks to a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation.

Upcoming Meetings

Location details and agendas are on Sunnysideportland.org.

March

March 5th: SNACC meeting
6:00 p.m.

March 10th: LUTC meeting
(Zoom only) 7:00-8:00 p.m.

March 12th: SNA General Meeting
7:00-8:00 p.m.; Board Meeting
8:00-9:00 p.m.

April

April 9th: SNA Board Meeting
7:00-9:00 p.m.

April 14th: LUTC meeting (Zoom only)
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Before taking on this responsibility, Cogan-Sant worked and volunteered in several areas related to social causes, including eight years in sexual assault domestic violence advocacy, as an abortion rights activist, and more recently managing a program for unhoused survivors of sexual and domestic violence with the YWCA.

How has this first month on the job been for you?

Lindsay: It's been a really incredible experience so far. January was kind of a wild month...but I thrive in chaos. I'm really looking forward to all the amazing things that I think that we can do.

Could you explain more about what January has been like?

Lindsay: Winter is especially tough for our unsheltered neighbors. And with



Lindsay Cogan-Sant greeting guests at the Sunnyside Shower Project last month

everything happening in the world, there's a heightened sense of uncertainty and anxiety—especially around the availability of critical services that many rely on. On top of that, our washing machine broke and we spent two weeks battling a broken water heater—frustrating at any time, but especially in the dead of winter. We've had a nonstop stream of challenges to keep things running smoothly. The need for sleeping bags, tents, and warm clothing (especially coats and jackets) has been constant, as more folks struggle to stay warm and safe in these bitter cold temperatures. But this is such a resilient and resourceful group, and despite the setbacks, we kept pushing forward, finding solutions and making things work however we could.

You have mentioned that you love the sense of community in the neighborhood. Where do you see that in your daily life?

Lindsay: The Sunnyside Shower Project is definitely a big part of that. I think about everybody who volunteers and lives in the neighborhood. I've also had so many of my neighbors make a conscious effort to shake my hand and introduce themselves. There's a lot of community events and things that I've seen happen at a lot of local businesses—there's such great rapport

between them. Everybody looks out for our neighbors. And there's lots of very cute dogs that I've gotten to meet, which has been kind of my favorite part.

Beyond volunteering at the Shower Project, I'm curious if you have recommendations of how we can be more welcoming – not just to our unhoused neighbors but to anyone who is experiencing a difficult moment.

Lindsay: There's a couple of things, I think. When we have bad days, [many of us] can process that in private; if we're feeling really emotional, we can go home and cry in the privacy of our own homes. When you are unsheltered and living outside you don't have that privacy. Your bad days are on display for everyone. So, it's really important that if you see somebody who's having a bad day, to treat them with compassion. Also, it's important to remember that they are not just our neighbors, they're our most vulnerable neighbors. Everybody deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Make a conscious effort to introduce yourself, like you would to any neighbor. Ask, "Do you need anything? Do you need some water? Do you need some warm food?" Basically, just treat people with compassion.

What are your priorities with this new responsibility with the Shower Project?

Lindsay: My priorities right now are getting folks connected with all the things that they need (like extra warm jackets) and refining certain procedures— getting things consistently on paper.

Long-term, I think this is one of the most incredible projects I've seen, and I would really love to see it grow – maybe someday introduce case management services or have more showers. I really just want to be able to provide a space for our neighbors to feel safe, warm and comfortable, get their basic needs met, and take a shower.

With your presence, and having someone professionally working with the project, it seems that this initiative is taking a step forward. Is that something you are looking for?

Lindsay: I really love the way that the project is currently. It is very community-centered – more mutual aid based than it is focused on being a standard nonprofit. I would really love to find a way to grow while keeping that community-centered, mutual aid mindset. I think that's one of the things that makes this so special and so important. I really want to keep that focus as much as possible, but I do want to take this to the next level.

I imagine that one way neighbors can always help is by volunteering. But in what other ways could they contribute to the Shower Project?

Lindsay: Yeah, come volunteer! But also just stop by and say hi. I try to be here for most of the shifts. Come and get to know your neighbors, both housed and unhoused. If you have extra blankets or sleeping bags feel free to swing by and drop them off. Did you make some extra snacks that you want to share? Feel free to swing by! Just come and get to know your neighbors. That's the best way to build community. I really think that we're building such an incredible community. I'd love to get to know everyone in the neighborhood and I'd love for there to be more community engagement.

If you want to make a tax-deductible donation to the Sunnyside Shower Project, go to this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3njsup3u>, then select "SNACC" from the pull-down menu. You can make a one-time donation or become a monthly sustainer!

News From Sunnyside Environmental School (SES)

By Valerie Kahn, Member-At-Large

Hello neighbors!

Thank you to everyone who supported our students during Read-A-Thon. It was so much fun seeing everyone compete over reading minutes, enjoy local author talks, decorate their lockers to look like their favorite books, and dress up as their favorite book character. Also, thank you for your donations to the soccer goal fund. With your help the Soccer Coalition was able to meet its fundraising goal! Keep your eyes on the SES field—soon to be featuring two new soccer goals!

Join us for our Home-Grown Musical, *Teleported!*

Teleported, a musical written by our own Mo Phillips with the help of our students, will be performed on Friday, March 14 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, March 15th at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. The students had a lot of fun putting this show together and it should be highly enjoyable to watch.

The year is 1984. Some teenage friends in NYC are having a slumber party when three of them get sucked into the T.V.! As their friend (and her dog) tries to free them, the teens get tossed from T.V. show to T.V. show, meeting all kinds of crazy characters. Will they get back to reality? Join us to find out. To buy tickets, go to our Facebook page (SES PTSA) or our Instagram profile (@ses_ptsa) and click on the link in any of our *Teleported* posts. Come support our young thespians!

Donations Needed for SES's Annual Gala

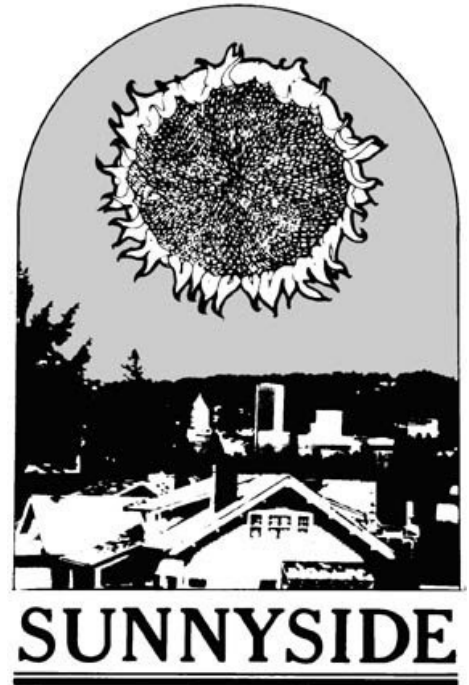
Each spring, the PTSA hosts a gala at which we auction off a wide variety of exciting items and experiences. This is a very fun event attended by a wide variety of SES families and supporters. Right now, we are collecting prizes for the auction. If you have something you would be willing to donate, we would love to hear from you. Auction prizes can be anything – a night out at a local restaurant, a private weekend at your vacation property, tickets to a local show, beautiful handcrafted jewelry, pottery, or other household items. This can be a great way to promote your business and to support a local school. If you are interested in donating an auction prize, please contact fundraising@sespts.org.

Beads Needed for SES's Upcoming Earth Day Celebration

SES, Making Earth Cool, and Extinction Rebellion are joining together to host an Earth Day celebration on SES's campus on Saturday, April 26th. SES is collecting beads for a bracelet-making table in honor of Bob Sallinger, an important activist and community member who recently passed away. If you have beads you would be willing to donate, please contact board@sespts.org.

We are planning a "Succession of the Species" parade, where participants can dress as plants or animals, as well as marching bands, face painting, giant puppets, and more! More details will be in the April newsletter.

Have questions about SES? Email sunnysideenvironmentalnews@gmail.com and I'll try to answer them in a future column.



The Sunnyside Neighborhood News is published monthly by the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.

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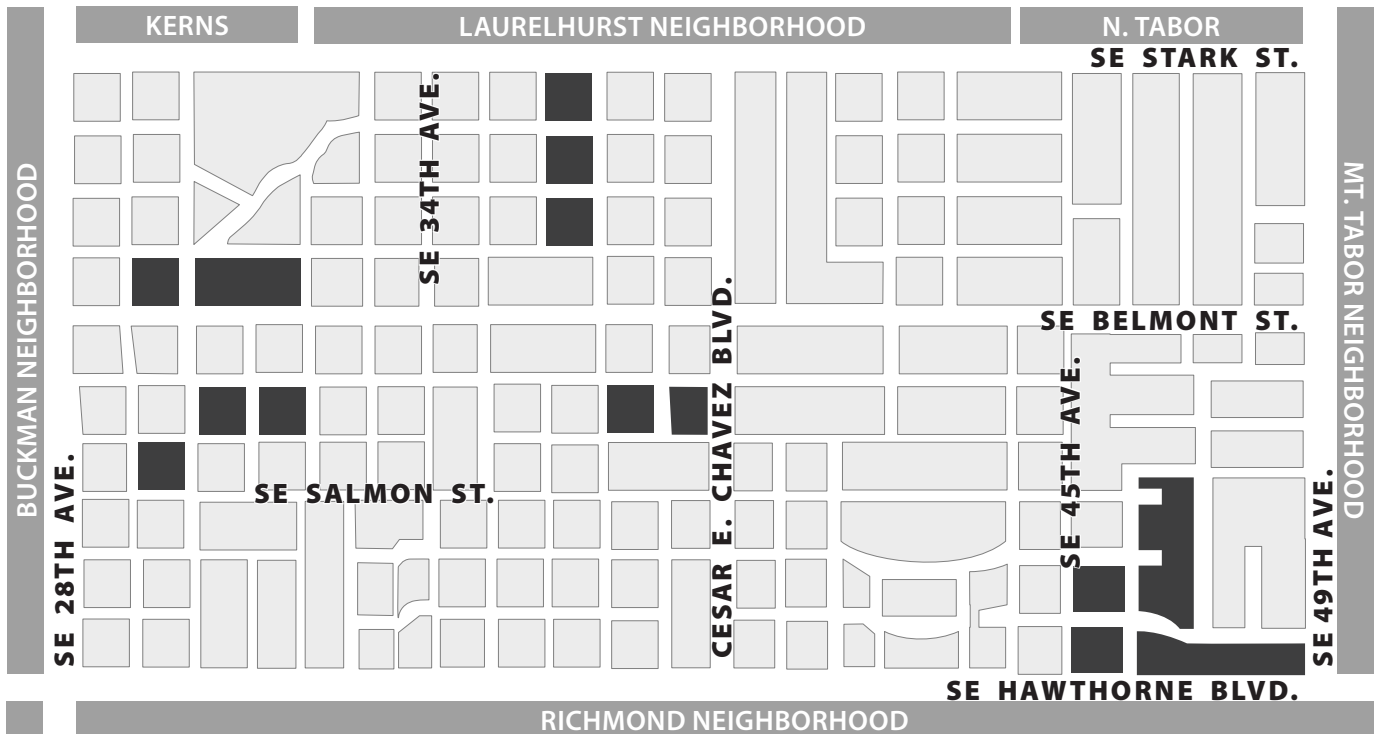
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Any opinions expressed, unless specified, are not necessarily those of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association or its board. **Sunnyside residents are welcome to submit articles for consideration that concern neighborhood issues, by emailing newsletter@sunnysideportland.org. Deadlines are the 15th of the month prior.** Many wonderful volunteer Sunnyside residents distribute the Neighborhood News.

Sunnyside Neighborhood 'Gap Map'

Live near any of the blocks marked in black below? We need your help!
 Contact fergrex@gmail.com to volunteer for our delivery service.

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