

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

April 2026

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
SunnysidePortland.org board@sunnysideportland.org

News from the Vice President

By Hannah Wallace, SNA Vice President

Happy Spring, Sunnysiders! This is my favorite season. The star magnolia in our backyard is blooming, and to me that signals the start of the season. Walking down Taylor Street this evening, I admired my neighbors' hyacinths, daffodils and dogwood. This is when we realize all that rain was worth it!

At our March General meeting, we had councilor Steve Novick as our special guest. He talked about a few things that are before the Portland City Council right now.

Our streets are crumbling and we don't have enough money to fix them. Councilor Olivia Clark has proposed a fee on residents (\$12 a month per household and \$8.40 per apartment) but that would only raise \$47 million. That would either help repair existing streets (for example Hawthorne and Salmon), Novick said, or it could go to paving streets in outer neighborhoods that are not yet paved and adding sidewalks—but not both. Discussion ensued.

Novick talked about the discovery of \$106 million in the Portland Housing Bureau and acknowledged that some of it is earmarked for particular programs. There are three schools of thought on how to spend the money that is not earmarked. Novick said we could:

- 1.) Create more housing (which is expensive).
- 2.) Prevent people who are at risk of losing their apartments or homes by giving them temporary rent assistance.
- 3.) Spend money on shelters. We had some debate in the room on which

of these values was most important, with several people suggesting Single Room Occupancies (SROs) and tiny home villages as a less-expensive option than building full-fledged apartments.

Mayor Wilson has suggested tapping \$75 million from the Portland Clean Energy Fund to help renovate the Moda Center, using renewable technology to reduce its carbon emissions. There was some debate in the room about whether Governor Kotek should have agreed to cough up \$300 million of public money when we don't have enough money in the state to pay for schools or roads adequately.

At our Board meeting we talked about a few projects we'd like to do in 2026 or early 2027. These include a community potluck, a neighborhood-wide yard sale, and a potential Bingo Card with Hawthorne businesses that would raise money for the SNA. Stay tuned. We'll post info to our social media channels! A reminder: on Instagram we're @Sunnysidepdxna and on Facebook we're Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.

Board elections will be at our May 13th meeting at 7 p.m. Please plan to attend! We have five positions up for election this year, one of which is an "open" seat. Please reach out to Chris at cjwaldmann@gmail.com if you are interested in running for a Board seat and would like to know more!



Sing for the Sunnyside Shower Project!

Need an excuse to feel good about the world? (Who doesn't?) If you get this newsletter before April 3rd, there's still time to join Low Bar Chorale in their annual Jesus Christ Superstar singalong! This event, their biggest of the year, will be held at Polaris Hall in North Portland (635 N Killingsworth Court.) As Low Bar wrote on their flyer, "Join us for an evening of skronky guitars, money notes, and pop-up harmony in the mother superior of all rock operas. Will you be Team Jesus, Team Judas, or Team Mary? Or will you just sing all the parts? That's allowed." A big portion of each ticket sale will go towards your favorite mutual aid project, the Sunnyside Shower Project. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the singing will begin at 7:30 p.m. See here for tickets, which are \$30 each: lowbarchorale.com.

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Online Auction: April 7-18
 Gala & Live Auction: April 18, 5:30-9 PM
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 Please join us at this event to support our local K-8 public school
SES Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, Tax ID: 84-2040549

News From Sunnyside Environmental School (SES)

By Sarah Centerwall

Member-at-large and SES parent

Though we didn't have much of a winter, that was probably preferable for students on field studies. (Not to mention a good topic of conversation about climate change.) That being said, spring is now here, the flowers are beautiful, and the air smells sweet. SES has some great events coming your way this month, both indoors and out. Can't wait to see you there!

2026 SES Gala and Auction 4/18 at Revolution Hall

Search your albums and memories for your best school picture from days long gone. This year, our Gala theme is School Picture Day. Think crisp collars, bold colors, and the outfit you begged to wear (and absolutely did). Expect vintage school vibes with a polished twist: hall passes, headshots, nostalgia, and just enough mischief to make your inner kid proud. This year, the SES Gala and Auction will be held at Revolution Hall on April 18, 2026 5:30-9:00 pm. This event is our largest fundraiser of the year. The funds raised ensure that SES can continue with our beloved gardening, field study, and Marine Biology programs.

If you aren't up for a night out, you can always bid on the live auction from your sofa. There are always tons of fun items to bid on. The online auction runs from April 7-18.

Tickets are \$35 - \$110 sliding scale. This includes event entry, bidder number, one drink ticket, one school portrait, and dessert. Buy yours today to support SES and enjoy a fun evening!

You can find more information and the link to the tickets and live auction at [instagram.com/ses_ptsa](https://www.instagram.com/ses_ptsa).

Hope to see you there!

4/10 Dolores Huerta Walk and Roll to School Day; Bike Fair

PBOT Safe Routes to School's next community event is on April 10th with El Camino De Dolores Huerta Walk + Roll to School Day. Families can celebrate Huerta's dedication to social justice by walking or rolling to school. Huerta, who still fights for immigrant and women's rights, co-founded the United Farm Workers union with Cesar Chavez. She sees education as an important tool in the fight for equality. Let's leave our cars in the driveway and join this fun way to celebrate social justice and the environment!

Earth Day Celebration 4/25 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. starting and ending at SES

This year's Earth Day celebration is a collaboration of Sunnyside Environmental School, Making Earth Cool, SOLVE, and 350PDX. It is a free, family-friendly event open to all. The day will be filled with fun activities including an Earth Parade and a costume contest. The event will start with activities at SES such as mask making, face painting and litter pick up. The Earth Parade will begin at 1 p.m. and will include giant puppets and marching bands! After the parade there will be a dance party with DJs PLNTDD and Cuica as well as a costume contest hosted by MC Blue Horse Grandmother and Ms. Frizzle. The best dressed will strut their stuff to see who the crowd chooses as a winner with the loudest cheers.

If you'd like more information go to makeearthcool.com to get the deets.

Fundraising Fridays 3:15-4 p.m.

Looking for a fun way to start off the weekend? Fundraising Fridays are back! Check out progress on the new outdoor classroom and support middle school Marine Biology trips on Friday afternoons by buying sweet treats and SES merch. Middle School students will be at the outdoor classroom every Friday from now until the end of the school selling this stuff. Fundraising Fridays allow middle school students to do their community service and raise money to support these yearly trips that make SES so special. The money earned helps the school ensure that every

student can attend these amazing trips no matter their economic situation.

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

Critic's Corner

by Charlotte Hanscom of Franklin High School

"You knew I'd write a book about you someday. You said once that I'd dredged up the whole hit parade minus you. I'll never know how you'd tell it. For me it begins here. Like this."

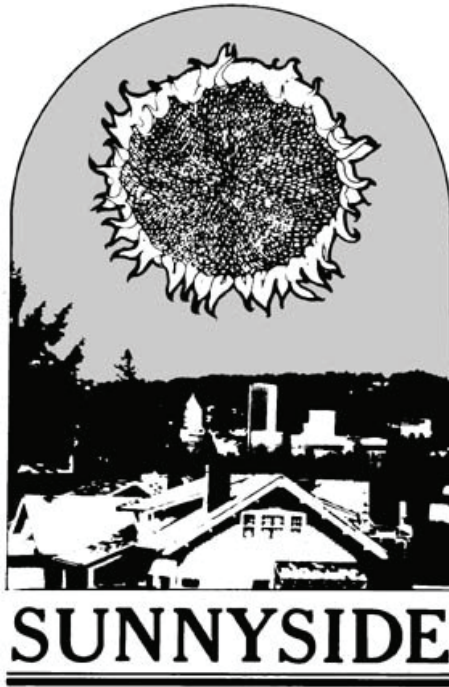
So opens Lily King's magnificent sixth novel, *Heart the Lover*. A companion of sorts to her previous book, *Writers and Lovers*, it returns to the same protagonist, centering on her time in college. The story begins when she meets Sam and his best friend Yash — two intellectuals whose world she becomes swept up in. They bestow her with the Gatsby-inspired nickname "Jordan," and her senior year quickly becomes a tangle of witty banter, literary discussions, and a raucous card game from which the title originates.

In their company, friendship deepens as do her own intellectual ambitions. Jordan begins a romantic relationship with Sam, but slowly realizes that Yash, in all his fervor and offhand charm, embodies the kind of love she desires. Around its halfway mark, the novel skips in time, cloaking the aftermath of Jordan and Yash's ardent, volatile relationship. The last act, fixated on a few days decades later, is a culmination of all that has been unresolved and misunderstood. Jordan, who feels so shaped by these boys, finally realizes how central she herself has been to their lives and story. She is forced to reckon with not just her own grief, but the role she has played in the emotional ecosystem the three have constructed.

King's prose is immersive without being showy. It has a kneading quality — pressing into a moment, folding it back, testing the tension. The familiar elements of a collegiate love story are present, but they are handled with restraint. Nothing is strained or exaggerated for effect. Even at its most conventional, the novel never feels manipulative. The emotional pitch rises naturally from the characters' limitations: what they fail to say, what they fail to see. While the novel has every chance to fall into cliché, King's sincerity steers it away from being saccharine or melodramatic. A

skillful writer, King handles both the heavier themes and the sweeter moments of her novel with finesse. *Heart the Lover* stands as an artificially constructed meditation on how people inevitably shape our lives, and how we, perhaps unconsciously, shape theirs.

This article was first published in The Franklin Post.



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

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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.

Upcoming Meetings

Location details and agendas are on Sunnysideportland.org.

April

Apr. 8th: Board Meeting, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Apr. 15th: LUTC, 7:00 p.m.

May

May 13th: Annual Meeting, 7:00-8:30 p.m.,

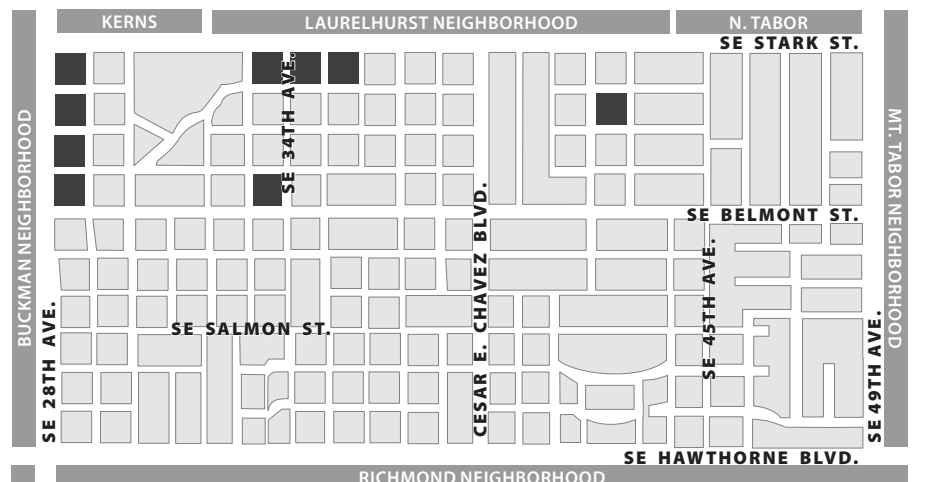
Board Meeting, 8:30-9:00 p.m.

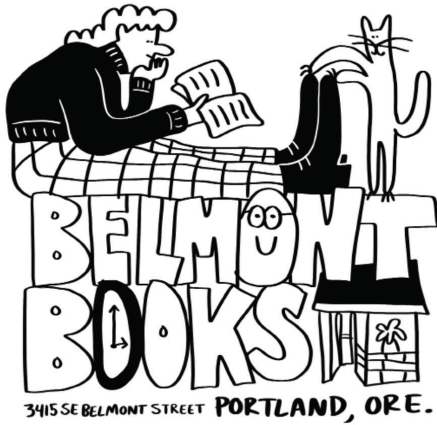
May 20th: LUTC, 7:00 p.m

Sunnyside Neighborhood 'Gap Map'

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