

Old Town Chinatown Well Represented at Mayor's Spirit of Portland Awards

Old Town Chinatown was well represented at the Mayor's Spirit of Portland awards ceremony, held at City Hall on December 11, 2008. A tradition begun by Vera Katz in 1985, the ceremony is dedicated to honoring citizens and organizations whose contributions have deeply impacted the community. Of 21 award recipients this year, six were from Old Town Chinatown.

p:ear, which moved to Old Town Chinatown in 2008, was honored with a "Mayor's Award" for their work helping young people to exit homelessness. Their innovative program combines mentorship, education, and a safe, non-judgmental environment for youth to develop life skills. Their newly renovated location on NW 6th and Glisan also features an art gallery where homeless youth, as well as featured guest artists, exhibit their work. For more information about p:ear, go to www.pearmentor.org.

Sisters of the Road Cafe was recognized as an outstanding Non-Profit Organization. Since 1979, Sisters has offered hot, delicious, nourishing meals at a very low cost, or for barter. The cafe served an average of 371 meals per day in 2008, up more than 25 meals per day over 2007. Sisters recently worked with the Portland State University Capstone Program to create an online version of Sisters' database, which includes 515 first-hand stories of people who have experienced homelessness. Look for it at www.sistersoftheroad.org/voices.



NRFCU's Char Shinn receives Spirit Award from Mayor-Elect Sam Adams [on Dec 13 (Photo courtesy Office of Neighborhood Involvement)]

"We are inspired by being in cross-class community everyday," says Monica Beemer, Sisters' Executive Director. "Everyday we hear stories of what it is like to be homeless in Portland, and that motivates us to work on root causes."

Street Roots was another recipient of a Non-Profit Award, for their work creating income opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and poverty, and for "giving a voice to the powerless," as the Street Roots staff expresses it. Street Roots publishes the bi-weekly newspaper which focuses on issues related to homelessness and poverty, and also produces the Rose City Resource, a directory of services, published quarterly. For more information about Street Roots, go to www.streetroots.org.

A Small Business Award was given to **Northwest Resource Federal Credit Union (NRFCU)** at NW 2nd and Everett, who offer personal finance education to clients of Central City Concern's Workforce Program, including budgeting, balancing a checkbook, and building credit. "Probably the best part of being a recipient was the opportunity to share it with the five other award winners from Old Town Chinatown," says Char Shinn, President and CEO of NRFCU. "Part of our mission is to help build a better neighborhood." More at www.nrfcu.org.

Continued on Page 8.



Chinese New Year celebrants admire a Lion Dance
Photograph courtesy of Mike Zaugg

The Year of the Ox was rung in with cheer at **Portland Classical Chinese Garden**, with festivities spanning from January 23rd through February 8th. A plenteous Calendar of Events included

Year of the Ox Begins!

performances, demonstrations and lectures, family activities and special events.

Traditional *hong bao* lucky red envelopes were given to each visitor, symbolizing good fortune and prosperity. An exhibit of handmade paper fiber lanterns created by local artists Lâm Quảng and Kestrel Gates.

Performances of traditional Chinese arts livened the occasion. Lion Dances by Lee's Association Lion Dance Team added that memorable spark to the celebration. Yo-Yo demonstrations by Portland Chinese School Yo-Yo Team brought an extra element of fun. Other performances included Tai Chi Fan and Sword Demonstrations by NW Internal Arts, and live Chinese music by the Portland Orchid and Bamboo Ensemble. Visitors also enjoyed hearing the story of the Chinese Zodiac.

Attendants enjoyed educational opportunities as well. Oregon College of

Oriental Medicine presented lectures about acupuncture and healthy eating, The Tao of Tea at the Garden held a traditional tea ceremony, and Chinese Painting was demonstrated by Frances Li.

For the culmination of Chinese New Year, bright red lanterns were strewn throughout the Garden, and, for the grand finale, floating lanterns were set adrift on the pond.

It's still not too late to be a part of the spirit of beginning a new year. Pay a visit to the garden that is "never twice the same." Gifts for the Year of the Ox are available in the Chinese Garden gift shop. Also, don't miss the Garden's Annual Spring Plant Sale March 20th - 22nd.

See www.portlandchinese gardens.org to learn more about your Chinese Zodiac sign!

Letter from the editor

There is a saying in Old Town Chinatown that the neighborhood is "the heart of Portland." This belief comes about because people of many different cultures came here throughout the history of Portland and made this neighborhood their first home. For settlers of all walks of life, Old Town Chinatown was the gateway to Portland, and, they hoped, the gateway to a new life.

The Old Town Chinatown Crier team decided to focus on that aspect of our district this issue because there is so much to be honored. There are a variety of traditions to pay respect to, a vast history to be explored, and issues to pay attention to. We would like to open it all up for discussion. Or continue the discussion.

The expression "the heart of Portland" also describes the enormous body of creative talent and expression in the neighborhood. You could say it's "The Heart of Portland" (see our stories on Pages 6 and 7). There are nearly 40 art galleries to explore (try the Neighborhood Association's new monthly gallery tours as a way to get to know them all, bit by bit!), performance

artists to enjoy, and creative firms steadily moving into the neighborhood.

Old Town Chinatown also has a lot of heart because of all of the organizations housed within the neighborhood's borders that are dedicated to helping others. Several of these were recipients of the Mayor's 2008 Spirit of Portland Awards. The Mayor's office presented 21 awards, and 6 were received by members of Old Town Chinatown! I'd say we've got heart.

The start of a new year can be a reminder to find new ways to express what you value about the neighborhood. There are lots of ways to be involved.



Merlin Varaday

Happy Valentine's Day, and Happy Chinese New Year!

Get Involved!

The Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association (OTCTNA) welcomes participation. Everyone who lives, works, or owns a business or property in Old Town can become a member of the Neighborhood Association. For more information, please go to the OTCTNA web site, www.oldtownchinatown.com.

Meeting Times and Locations

Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association: First Tuesday of the month, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at University of Oregon, 70 NW Couch St., Room #146. Contact Alexander Mace at 503.702.5840 or chair@oldtownchinatown.com.

OTCTNA Arts, Culture and History Committee: Third Tuesday of the month, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave. Contact Reid Decker at 503.222.6072 x11 or reid@saturdaymarket.org for more information.

OTCTNA Communications Committee: Last Monday of the month, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Contact Kaebel Hashitani at 503.916.9293 or sequentialart@gmail.com or Nancy Stovall at vicechair@oldtownchintown.com for more information and venue details.

OTCTNA Public Safety Committee: Last Wednesday of the month, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the Central City Concern basement conference room, 232 NW 6th Ave. Contact Dave Owens at 503.796.2017 or safety@oldtownchinatown.com.

Joint Land Use Committee: Third Tuesday of the month, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm in the Community Meeting Room at 8 NW 8th Ave. Contact Patrick Gortmaker at patrick@kalbererco.com or Paul Verhoeven at 503.222.6072 x.12 or paul@saturdaymarket.org.

PHLUSH: Third Monday of the month, at 5:00 pm at the OTCTNA office at 115 SW Ash St., Suite 400G. Contact Carol McCreary at 503.984.4081 or phlush@oldtownchinatown.com.

Old Town Chinatown Visions Committee: Second Wednesday of the month, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at 232 NW 6th Ave. Contact Howard Weiner at 503.248.0495 or howard@calsk8.com.

OTCTNA Board Member Profiles

By Donald Tyer



Carl Roberts

Carl has lived in Old Town Chinatown for 24 years. Everyone who has strolled through OTCT has seen Carl keeping a watchful eye on our streets. Recently, Carl was nominated by Portland Development Commission (PDC) to receive a Spirit of Portland Award from the Mayor's Office--and receive the award he did! PDC had observed Carl directing and reassuring passers-by outside their office every day for a year. Currently, Carl serves as Co-Chair of the Public Safety Committee. He has also been on the Communications Committee and active in Visions Committee. Carl says the cultural diversity and the historical nature of the neighborhood are part of what make OTCT great.



Randy Capron

A very busy man, Randy Capron co-owns and operates **Voleur Restaurant and Kitchen** as well as serving on the Land Use Committee. His shirtsleeves are rolled up, and he is ready for work whenever there is a special event. Voleur, hosts National Night Out each year and has been home to the monthly Communications Committee meetings. Randy has lived in Old Town Chinatown for 18 years and says that the strength of OTCT is the spirit of cooperation among neighbors.

OTCTNA Committees Start on Goals for New Year

The Arts, Culture & History Committee is working on developing projects and writing grant applications. Proposals under consideration include the following:

- A Children's Activity Book for school groups and school-aged visitors—6500 students come to Old Town annually! The activity book will explore the rich culture and history of Old Town. The book would be purchased at neighborhood destinations like **Portland Classical Chines Garden, Oregon Jewish Museum, and Portland Saturday Market**. Teachers could order online from the **Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association (OTCTNA)** web site for classroom material before visiting the neighborhood. The book could also be mailed or delivered to low income housing families within Old Town.
- Seasonal video podcasts of Old Town—events, gallery shows, artist interviews, business profiles and visitor cameos. These podcasts could be posted to the OTCTNA web site, www.oldtownchinatown.org.
- An audio tour of Japantown, circa 1930. Our Nihonmachi history is not well known, but there was a flourishing Japantown in our neighborhood until the Japanese were sent to internment camps. The audio tour would walk a visitor through our Japantown as though it were 1930, your host being a young Japanese mother who lives and shops in the neighborhood. The tour ends at the Japanese-American Historical Plaza.

The Communications Committee is putting the finishing touches on a new OTCTNA logo, and recruiting new members to participate in planned outreach activities for 2009. The committee welcomes the recent grant award of \$5,000 for the 2009 *Crier* and outreach activities. Planned activities for 2009 include the June Starlight Parade, fielding a bocce' team to play in Portland's Bocce' League, August's National Night Out and December's Christmas Ships Viewing Party. If you want to join one of these activities, contact Nancy Stovall at 503.241.4736 or nancy@oldtownchinatown.com.

The Joint Land Use Committee considers land use topics including zoning and design guidelines, as well as other land use issues that impact our neighborhood. Current discussions include the Ankeny-Burnside framework development and the River District Urban Renewal Area.

The Public Safety Committee is concentrating on being an information and advice conduit for OTCT stakeholders, as well as working toward improving our disaster preparedness and emergency operations capabilities. Current news items include:

- 1) Neighbors should be on the lookout for an increase in car-based drug dealing and prostitution in OTCT, and report any suspicious vehicles and their license plates to the police. Cars that drive around repeatedly with no seeming destination are serving as bases for this criminal behavior.
- 2) Several new nightlife venues have opened. Most have been invited to attend the Public Safety Committee meetings as well as the OTCTNA meetings. All are welcome; some are regular attendees.
- 3) Goals for 2009 include Neighborhood Emergency Team recruitment, planning for evacuation and/or sheltering with Portland Office of Emergency Management and monitoring the currently-operational Emergency Warming Shelter system.

OTCTNA Board of Directors Elects New Members

The Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association Board of Directors welcomed several new members in January. The newly appointed Board Members are Tyler Byrd (Director of Commercial Services at **Northwest Resource Federal Credit Union**), Martin Soloway (Deputy Director of Housing Central City Concern), Fern Elledge (Community Service Center Director of Transition Projects), and Stephen Ying (Executive Director, CCBA). These appointments were made during the course of the election year, due to the departures of (Old Board Members) Kaebel Hashitani, David Heifetz and Melissa Armstrong.

2009 Board elections will be held at the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association meeting on March 3rd. New members will be announced at the meeting on April 7th.

Old Town Chinatown Crier

Editing and Layout: Merlin Varaday.

Contributing Writers: Pauline Baughman, Carol McCreary, John Fall, Joleen Jensen-Classen, Julianna Paradisi, Jacqueline Peterson Loomis, Nancy Stovall, and Donald Tyer.

Thank you to our community sponsors and to the City of Portland Neighborhood Grants Program for their support in 2008.

Please send submissions to otctcrier@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions for the Summer 2009 issue is Monday, March 28th, 2009.

To advertise in the Old Town Chinatown Crier, please contact Kim Faucher at kfaucher@nrfcu.org.

If you would like to receive the Old Town Chinatown Crier at your home or business, please contact Carol McCreary at 503.984.4081.

115 SW Ash St., Suite 400G Portland, OR 97204
www.oldtownchinatown.com



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Creativity Meets Production at the Center of Excellence

By Nancy Stovall

Portland is a city that lures creatives of all kinds. Take a quick look around Old Town—it's literally written all over our neighborhood. Think of Someday Lounge's battle cry "vive l'arte" and Todd Tawd's graphically-inspired "A Mood Change" Gallery. There's a host of new media creatives in the 'hood---from eROI to Synotac to Geek in the City. It's likely that you, too, are part of Old Town's creative pool.

Creative ideas are the center of a lot of conversations in and around Old Town. But what if the idea involves a product? How do you get your great idea off that cocktail napkin and into production? Your first stop should be the **Center of Excellence (COE)**, a business incubator and Old Town neighbor. William Weinstein and Bob Taylor are the co-founders of the organization, providing the resources, investment and support structure for Portland's would-be entrepreneurs.

The company initially focused on the sports industry because of Portland's status as a global leader in sports footwear and apparel. Startups like **Newton Running Company** (www.newtonrunning.com), **Cloggens** (www.cloggens.com) and **AQX** (www.aqxsports.com) came to COE with their ideas for sports footwear. COE guided each of them from concept to finished product, helping them develop into professional organizations. The Center of Excellence offers services and resources that a small business or start-up company needs. Need a prototype of your product? COE's contacts with factories can

make that connection. In fact, their network of services includes not only product development, but also strategic planning, marketing, financial consulting and business management.

The Center of Excellence works with startups of all kinds.

David Schreiber came to the COE for help with developing and manufacturing his ideas for family toys.

Uncle Skunkle Toys is now using sustainable wood to produce award-winning games such as Rapid4® and Destruct3©. About nine different startup companies are working with COE now; they have space for about fourteen.



Here's how to get started with your great idea:

Center of Excellence
308 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 200
William Weinstein
wweinstein@coeglobal.com
503.200.2727

"We turn dreams into marketable products."
- Center of Excellence

Learn Chinese in Chinatown

Look Alive!

Bus training is happening on the Portland Mall

Be alert and stay safe during bus training on several 5th and 6th avenues blocks:

- Cross at crosswalks only.
- Obey all signals.
- Bike or drive only in the left-hand traffic lane.
- Don't cross the bumpy white lane divider.

Bus service starts on the Mall May 24, 2009.
For more information, visit portlandmall.org.

TRIOMET

See where it takes you.



Chinese language students at the CCBA

By Nancy Stovall

Looking to learn Mandarin or Cantonese? You decide—both languages are taught in Chinatown. Since 1911, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) has offered language lessons. The first students were the children of Chinese immigrants. Their parents were fearful that their family might be deported, so they insisted their children learn Cantonese.

The language classes have always been taught in the CCBA building on NW

Davis St. Today, there are fifteen classrooms as well as a second floor library. This year, the CCBA purchased new computers and data projectors. Fifteen instructors teach on Saturdays; you can learn Cantonese in the morning, or pick up Mandarin in the afternoon.

Each language is taught in six levels, and use Chinese textbooks and materials selected by the teaching staff. Both children and adults are welcome in both the Mandarin and Chinese classes; the CCBA also offers adult conversational classes.

For more information, contact the school at 503.223.9070, email honnal@aol.com or log on to ccbaportland.org/school.html.

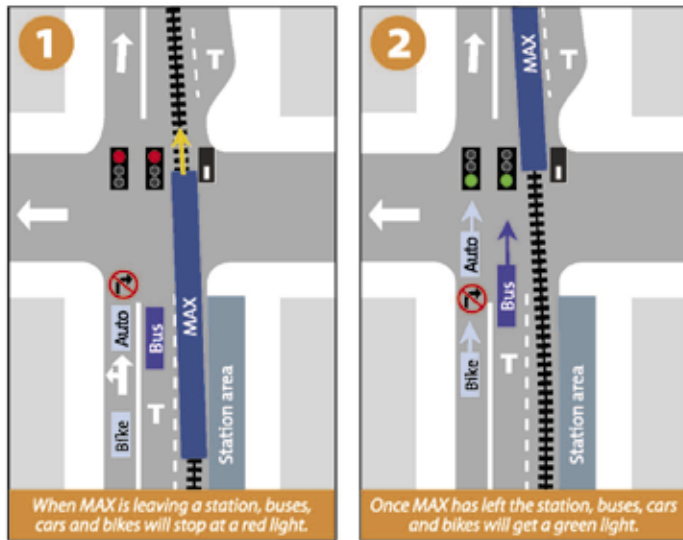
In addition, Chinese brush painting classes are offered on Saturday afternoons. Ms. Jean Choy, an artist with 25 years teaching experience, specializes in free-hand techniques.

To register, call 503.223.9070 or ccbaportland.org/school.html.

TriMet Declares Safety Awareness Week

Separate lanes and signals

Buses will share the two right transit lanes with MAX. Motor vehicles and bikes will only use the left lane.



The final transition to transit Mall on NW 5th and 6th Avenues should be a safe and easy one if these simple guidelines are remembered.

TriMet has declared March 2nd - March 8th Mall Safety Awareness Week, and will use this week to remind transit users, pedestrians and motorists alike about safe travel on NW 5th and 6th avenues. TriMet officials offer these simple guidelines: Motorists and cyclists should only travel in the left-side traffic lane on both 5th and 6th avenues. The right side transit lanes are reserved for buses and light rail trains. Always stay to the left of the bumpy, double white divider between the traffic and the transit lanes. Stopping will not be allowed in the car and bike traffic lane except as required by traffic signals. At intersections, cyclists and motorists may go straight or turn left, but right turns from 5th and 6th avenues will not be allowed.

TriMet bus operator training will continue on several Mall blocks until May 24th. TriMet officials appreciate public patience during all training exercises.

Later this year the Max Green Line debuts in Old Town. The addition of a new line means changes for everyone, but TriMet is working to make the transition a smooth as possible.

Important Dates to Remember

March 2nd - March 8th: Mall Safety Awareness Week.
May 3rd: Light rail operator training begins.
May 24th: Bus service starts on the Mall.
Aug. 30th: MAX Yellow Line service moves to the Mall.
Sept. 10th: MAX Green Line service begins.

For more information, please visit www.portlandmall.org.

Neighborhood Hospitality Campaign Launched

By Carol McCreary

PHLUSH volunteers were on hand to launch their neighborhood hospitality campaign. At the December 8th opening of the Portland Loo with Commissioner Randy Leonard and newly-elected Mayor Sam Adams, The purpose is to portray Old Town Chinatown as hospitable, comfortable, safe, and clean and to publicize the availability of public restrooms.

Supported by SOLV, the campaign complements recent community-rooted cleanliness initiatives of Blanchet House, Portland Classical Chinese Garden, Sisters of the Road Café, Portland Rescue Mission, and others.

Postcards and window signs with toilet locations and hours, which PHLUSH has produced, have been welcomed by neighborhood business owners. Additional copies may be requested at phlush@oldtownchinatown.com.

There are four public restrooms located in Old Town including:

- 1) 24-hour **Portland Loo**, NW Glisan between 5th & 6th Ave s
- 2) 24-hour **Portland Rescue Mission** at 111 W. Burnside & 1st Ave
- 3) **Smart Park** restroom at NW Davis and 1st Ave.
M-Th 7:00am - midnight, F & Sa 7:00am - 3:00am,
Su 9:00am - 10:00pm (except Sundays in February).
- 4) **Ankeny Park Historic Comfort Station** on W. Burnside,
open 8:00am - 11:00pm.



The Portland Loo

photo courtesy Dan Kvitka Photography

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www.portlandchinesegarden.org

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618 NW Flanders St

Anka Gallery
325 NW 6th Ave
pdxartscene.org

Art 323
323 NW 6th Ave
art323.com
707.321.529

Attic Gallery
206 SW 1st Ave
atticgallery.com

Butters Gallery
520 NW Davis
buttergallery.com
503.248.9378

Chambers Gallery
205 SW Pine St
chambersgallery.org
503.227.9398

Fifty24PDX
23 NW 5th Ave
503.548.4835

Fontanelle Gallery
205 SW Pine St
fontanellegallery.com
503.274.7668

Gallery Rene
207 SW Pine St
gallerierene.net
503.223.1022

Grassy Knoll Gallery
123 NW 2nd
grassyknollgallery.com
503.449.7484

p:ear
338 NW 6th Ave
pearmentor.org
503.228.6677

Shaffer Fine Art Gallery
308 SW 1st Ave
shafferfineart.com
503.295.4979

FIRST THURSDAY in Old Town Showcases "The Heart of Portland"

In Old Town, curators produce shows that run the gamut from art glass to artisan jewelry, from illustration to installations, and from performance art to sequential art.

Local, independent galleries are the mainstay of Old Town's art hub. Butters celebrated 20 years in 2008; Attic Gallery first opened in 1973 and is Portland's oldest gallery. Grassy Knoll Gallery is one of Portland's newest galleries, but is already known for their shows featuring illustrators.

Experience Portland's new art frontier on First Thursday.
You'll find yourself returning to see what next.

Everett Station Lofts

is a live/work space with sixteen street-level galleries, including performance art spaces and interactive galleries.

Illusionaire Design
412 NW Couch #412
illusionaire.com

Julianna Paradisi Painting
412 NW Couch #415
juliannaparadisi.com

Matt Condron Painting
412 NW Couch #407
mattcondron.com

Morgan Cole Pasinski
412 NW Couch #402
mcpasinski.com

Catherine Eckrode
412 NW Couch #412
503.708.8809
CEckrode@gmail.com

Stephen P. Ferreira
412 NW Couch
stephanpferreira.uber.com

Fortunato Art Works
412 NW Couch

Brian Oaster
412 NW Couch
misunderstandings
betweenfriends.com

An important group of artists shows in the Goldsmith Building at Couch & NW 5th.

Goldsmith Artists Block is a not-to-miss stop on your First Thursday exploration.

Eyeful Gallery
625 NW Everett #104
eyefulgallery.blogspot.com
503.243.1222

Igloo Gallery
321 NW 6th Ave #102
iglooart.blogspot.com

ON Gallery
321 NW 6th Ave #101
callforartists@ONGallery.org

PiP Gallery
625 NW Everett #110
myspace.com/pipgallery
503.367.0791

Pony Club Gallery
625 NW Everett #105
myspace.com/ponyclubgallery

Right Side Art
321 NW 6th Ave #103
rightsideart.com

Raw Oyster Project
625 NW Everett #106

Sequential Art Gallery
328 NW Broadway #113
sequentialartgallery.com
503.916.9293

Show & Tell Gallery
625 NW Everett #231
showandtellgallery.org

Sugar Gallery
625 NW Everett #108
sugasrgallery.org

The Darras Gallery
328 NW Broadway #115
thedarras.com

The Life Gallery
625 NW Everett #107
thelifearart.com
971.544.1365

Tractor Gallery
328 NW Broadway #114
tractorpdx.com
541.993.3648

Tyson Space Gallery
328 NW Broadway #116

Vorpall Space
328 NW Broadway #117
vorpalspace.com
503.577.0530

Wandering Gypsy Soul
625 NW Everett #109
brandykayzakianrowe.com
206.724.2519

The Heart of Portland

Gallery Spotlight: Anka Gallery

By Julianna Paradisi

Anka Gallery (325 NW 6th Ave.) stands in the heart of the Old Town Chinatown arts neighborhood, both physically and metaphorically speaking. Anka's curator, Anna Solcaniova King and her husband Graylan, share a vision of adding to Portland's arts community "A visual voice of the unexpected... a more penetrating exchange between artist and audience." Anna's love of process is evident in Anka's shows: Last fall, John Wiley Howington's chromatic photographs included the recorded ambient sounds of the locations he photographed, using cameras he makes himself.

Anna and Graylan are the creators of PDXartscene.org, an art portal utilizing advanced web-based tools. They are launching a similar portal for Los Angeles to create a conduit of exchange

benefitting artists in both cities.

Anna was born in Slovakia, and studied art history in Italy. Immigrating to New York, she developed her aesthetic sensibility by designing sets for fashion



First Thursday at Anka Gallery

photo shoots. After 9/11, she moved to Los Angeles, designing sets for movies and working with Pop artist Steve Kaufman. Anka Gallery is open for First Thursdays 6 pm- 9 pm.

Artist Spotlight: M.C. Pasinski

By Julianna Paradisi

Morgan Cole Pasinski's paintings have an elegant simplicity that belies their creation. Worked in oil, wax and pencil, her surfaces vary from transparent and glass-like, to so textural that they almost invite touch. Morgan acknowledges this observation: "I spend the majority of my time on the backgrounds by adding paint and scraping it off until it looks like nothing I could have done intentionally." She finds inspiration in the yin/yang of old walls and sidewalks, ugly and beautiful with their patinas of passing time. Finishing the background, Morgan then sits and stares at it until an image takes shape. Rendered in simple lines, sea creatures, figures, and familiar household items overlie the background surfaces of her paintings.

Morgan received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Western Washington University in 2000. Transplanted from Bellingham, Washington, her studio is in the Goldsmith Blocks Building in Old Town and is open to the public each First Thursday. In April, she is a participating artist in The Chair Affair, an art auction benefitting Portland's Community Warehouse. Visit Morgan's website, www.mcpasinski.com to learn more about her work.



Boy by Morgan Cole Pasinski

Gallery Tours Continue in Old Town

By Nancy Stovall

The Old Town creative community is bursting at the seams. More than 35 galleries and artist studios make their home in our neighborhood—small independent galleries at Everett Station Lofts, working studios in the Goldsmith Blocks, and well-established, traditional galleries all add to the unique art scene here.

Under the auspices of the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association, free Gallery Tours are offered every month to introduce neighbors and visitors to galleries. The tours, which visit different galleries each month, were well-attended last fall, and plans are in the works to continue them in 2009. Pictures of past Gallery Tours are on the neighborhood association web site, www.oldtownchinatown.org/gallerytours.html. To add your name to the invitation list, email arttour@oldtownchinatown.com.

Each month, the gallery tours focus on a particular hub of galleries, or look for themed installations. In October, the tour visited 10 galleries at the Everett Station block, and in November the tour focused on the Goldsmith Block Artists. In December, the tour connected visitors with galleries south of Burnside. For 2009, tours will include Asian arts, comic book art, and a rooftop exhibit.



Visitors enjoy
Wandering Gypsy Soul Gallery

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howard davis : 503.548.8027

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Creative Businesses Flock to the Neighborhood

By Carol McCreary

Live theater comes to 16 NW Broadway with **Brody Theater**. Friday evenings feature *Theatresports* team improvisation competitions. *The Antiques Improv Show* on Saturdays features stories about the odd treasures brought by theater-goers. Brody also offers classes and workshops for both seasoned actors and beginners. For more information, go to www.brodytheater.com.

The old Hung Far Low has been transformed into **Ping**, a contemporary blend of a Southeast Asian cafe and coffeehouse and a late night Japanese izakaya, or pub. With premises designed by John and Janet Jay, culinary artistry by **Pok Pok's** Andy Ricker, and operations in the hands of Kurt Huffman, Ping heralds a new era in Chinatown.

At **Davis Street Tavern** in the historic Neville Bag Company warehouse at NW 5th & Davis St. Chef Gabriel Kapustka and Manager Christopher Handford showcase local sustainable ingredients. Linger at the welcoming neighborly tavern in the front or proceed to the rear for a more formal dining area with mezzanine. The large baker's table, reclaimed from *Three Lions Bakery*, which operated on the site until recently, accommodates special groups.

The **Oh Planning + Design** (www.ohpd.net) team, led by Deb France and Leslie Melin, is at work in their carefully renovated new top floor premises of the Fleischner Mayer Building. Also relocated to 115 NW 1st Ave. is **GreenPrint** (www.printgreener.com) whose ingenious paper-saving software allows you to print only the parts of pages that you need. Across the Max tracks in the Blagen Block at 34 NW 1st Ave. is **Decipher** (www.decipherinc.com), a marketing research services provider that specializes in online data collection and custom technology development.

Meet Your Neighbor: Julie Duryea at souk

Happy Birthday, souk! This year, souk begins their 3rd year in OTCT. Owner Julie Duryea met with the Crier to share a little bit about this innovative new membership public workspace. To learn more about this alternative way to get it all done, go to www.soukllc.com.

What does souk offer? souk offers hourly, daily and monthly work space and meeting rooms for freelancers, independent consultants, entrepreneurs, small start-ups. Those who find the home office lonely, the coffee shop distracting, or are simply seeking community gravitate to souk.

What is the story of souk coming to the neighborhood? We signed our lease summer of 2006, back before the Max line was constructed out front. We opened our doors in January 2007. By the way, the first floor of our building is up for lease. It's a great spot, 4700 square feet, ready to move in, MAX at front door, and I can vouch for a great landlord (contact bkolin@hotmail.com if interested). Our story of coming to the neighborhood comes down to location, location, location. It's central to downtown. A wide variety of restaurants are within walking distance. It's well served by public transportation. Interesting, young companies are clustering in the area. The OTCT neighborhood is real city life, a true microcosm.

What is your favorite part of being a member of Old Town Chinatown? The diversity. Love the mix of artists and professionals.

What is your favorite thing to do in Old Town Chinatown? Lunch at Portland Classical Chinese Garden at different times of the year, followed by a stroll through its grounds. I also love cocktails at **Gilt**, **Darcelle XV**, and the piano bar at **Hobo's**.

Old Town Neighbors Win "Spirit" Awards

Continued from Page 1.

Old Town Chinatown individuals as well as organizations were honored at the awards ceremony. Neighborhood activist **Stephen Ying** was recognized for impacting the community on numerous fronts, including fund-raising for the American Red Cross to support earthquake relief efforts in China, advocating for small business, promoting tourism, and acting as a liaison for the Chinese community. Stephen is a member of the Neighborhood Association, the Business Association, and Visions, as well as a Board Member of Portland Classical Chinese Garden. He was President of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association from 2004 to 2006, and is currently serving as its Executive Director.

Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association Board Member **Carl Leonard Roberts** was nominated for an award by Portland Development Commission for stationing himself outside their office virtually every day to guide passers-by through the neighborhood, and to promote safety. Carl is also a major driving force in the Neighborhood Association Public Safety Committee. Carl says: "One person in a community can make a difference. If everyone tries to make a difference, the world is a safer, better place for everyone."

To see all the winners of the Spirit of Portland Awards, visit www.portlandonline.com.

OTCT Upcoming Events

NW Documentary: 115 SW Ash St., Suite. 620. For more information, call 503.227.8688 or go to www.nwdocumentary.org.

Public Workshop Screening: McMenemy's Mission Theater and Pub, 1624 NW Glisan St. April 24th, 7:00 pm. \$5.00.

Project: Valentine Story Project. February 8th - 13th. 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm. 115 SW Ash, Suite. 620. FREE. Stop by the NW Documentary office the week before Valentine's Day and participate in their first public story project. Bring a loved one and record a story special to your heart. You'll get a copy of your story on CD to last a lifetime.

Oregon Jewish Museum: 310 NW Davis St. Museum Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:30 am - 3:00 pm; Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm or by appointment. Admission: \$3, FREE for members. For more information call 503.226.3600 or go to www.ojm.org.

Exhibit: *Yes We Can! Unlearning Discrimination in Oregon.* January 19th - March 29th, 2009. At the museum.

Performance: *Charlotte Salomon: Life? Or Theater? A Multi-Media Performance Play with Songs.* In collaboration with the German American Society and the Jewish Theater Collaborative. February 14th, 8:00 p.m.; February 15th, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 pm. Held at the West End Theatre, 1220 SW Taylor St. Tickets: \$20 General \$10 Students.

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center: 121 NW 2nd Ave. Museum Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm; Sunday 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm. Suggested Donation: \$3, Members FREE. Call 503.224.1458 or visit www.oregonnikkei.org.

Exhibit: Desert Sands, Photographs by Emily Hanako Momohara. January 24th - March 15th, at the museum.

Exhibit: Karen Miller's *Katazome*. April 2nd - May 24th. First Thursday Opening Reception on April 2nd. 121 NW 2nd Avenue, at the museum.

Exhibit: Rose Festival Exhibit. Starts May 31st, at the museum.

Performance: *Kodomo No Tame Ni* (For the Sake of the Children). A new show by Alton Takiyama-Chung with musical guest Mike Van Liew. February 20th - March 8th. Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 pm; Sunday matinees at 1:00 pm. Held at Hipbone Studio, 1847 East Burnside St. Tickets: \$12 (cash at the door). To reserve tickets, call 360.882.3581. For more information, go to www.hipbonestudio.com.

University of Oregon Portland: 70 NW Couch St. For more information, call 503.412.3696 or go to www.uooregon.edu.

February 20th - May 6th: A variety of non-credit classes will be offered, including: Green Building Design and Operations: Benefits, Strategies and Resources; Agenda Choreography and Program Content Choices; Sustainability and the Electronics Revolution: Keys to Purchasing, Use, Recycling; Investment in Natural Infrastructure: Ecosystem Services as an Emerging Asset Class; Accounting for Sustainability: Reporting Principles and Concepts; and Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainability.

Screening: *Pig Roast and Tank of Fish.* February 26th, 5:00 pm. ZGF Architects, 320 SW Oak St., Suite 500. Admission: FREE. Question and answer session after showing. For more information, call 503.937.7811.

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Out of the Past: Local Gems from the Library

Old Town Chinatown has a rich and varied ethnic heritage. Start your research at the Central Library at 801 SW 10th Ave., or their website at www.multicolib.org.

Dreams of the West: a History of the Chinese in Oregon, 1850-1950.

A Glimpse of Portland's Japantown, 1940: a Tour Guide.

Nihonmachi: Portland's Japantown remembered by George Kitagiri, Cannon Kitayama, Liz Nakazawa.

Portland's Chinatown: the History of an Urban Ethnic District by Nelson Chia-Chi Ho.

Portland: Gateway to the Northwest by Carl Abbott.

A Short History of Portland by Gordon DeMarco.

Sketches of Old Town & Old-Timers (Portland, Oregon) by Charles E. Reynolds, poems by Jim Hill.

Sweet Cakes, Long Journey: the Chinatowns of Portland, Oregon by Marie Rose Wong.

Touching the Stones: Tracing One Hundred Years of Japanese American History.

Also, don't forget to read **Stubborn Twig: Three Generations in the Life of a Japanese American Family** by Lauren Kessler, the selected book for the 7th Annual Everybody Reads project.

Contributed by Pauline Baughman, Multnomah County Library

Storefront Grants Enhance Old Town Building Facades

By Joleen Jensen-Clausen

Portland Development Commission (PDC) is working to administer the Storefront Improvement Program, part of the city's neighborhood revitalization efforts. The program provides cash grants and technical assistance to business and property owners in eligible neighborhoods. Recipients can use the support for a variety of improvements, ranging from repainting to purchase of new windows and awnings.

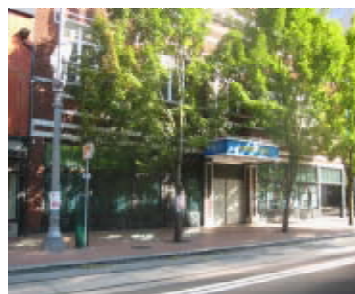
In Old Town Chinatown, The Roseland Theater, located at NW 6th and Burnside, is one such recipient. The popular concert venue has completed a storefront renovation, featuring new windows, a new building surface, and marquee lighting for the theater (photos below).



Roseland Theater renovations

Neighborhood storefront work from the grants are in progress on the same corner, and include the Downtown Chapel and the Star Theater. Other recent PDC projects in Old Town include the redevelopment of

the Globe Hotel (in conjunction with Beam Development), the Ankeny Burnside Development Framework (a joint PDC and Bureau of Planning project), and the relocation of Saturday Market, on track for later this Spring. A grand opening celebration will take place once the Saturday Market work is complete.



Roseland Theater renovations



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Hung Far Low Sign, a Historic Icon, Will Return Soon

By Jacqueline Peterson Loomis, Old town History Project, Inc.

Early in 2009, Ping will join the OTCT dining options at the corner of NW 4th and Couch. The historic building there was formerly home to one of Old Town Chinatown's most venerable restaurants and also one of its most important Chinese cultural symbols: the Hung Far Low sign. Established in 1929 by the Wong family, the Hung Far Low restaurant operated in Old Town until 2006, when it moved to SE Division.. Fortunately, the Hung Far Low sign, designated along with the building as an historic property by the National Park Service, remained with the building when it was sold. The new building owner, JoAnne Hong, with help from the City and the developers of the new restaurant, hopes to renovate and reinstall it as a way to preserve the character of historic Chinatown.



Hung Far Low's iconic sign

Ping will bring a decidedly up-scale, pan Asian and "international" flavor to the neighborhood. John Jay of Wieden & Kennedy -- one of Ping's

developers -- along with his wife, Janet, and Andy Ricker of Pok Pok, envisions nothing less than the reinvention of historic Old Town Chinatown as a multi-Asian international district, anchored by the proposed Uwajimaya grocery and shopping center across the street. The Seattle International District comes to mind.

This might seem like a new slant. But, in fact, Old Town Chinatown has news for Mr. Jay: Old Town Chinatown has always been Portland's international district, and its ethnic population has largely been multi-Asian to boot. The neighborhood was called many things before it was named Old Town in the 1970's: The North End, Whitechapel (the red light district), Japantown, New Chinatown, and Skidroad. Old Town has earned its reputation as the most diverse, mysterious, wildly dark and promising part of Portland.

City fathers liked to describe Portland as a white-washed town populated by enterprising New Englanders. That was only partly true. In 1900, more than one-third of Portland residents were born in another country. Portland's North End was the entry point, the first home, for the majority of male immigrants looking for work. The 1900 and 1910 manuscript censuses reveal a veritable United Nations of single men (and occasional families) crowding into the one- to four-story buildings between the waterfront, the west side of the Park Blocks, and Union Station. African American, Irish, German, Bavarian, French and French Canadian, Italian, Eastern European, Spanish, Filipino, Greek, Scandinavian, Japanese and Chinese residents can all be identified by name, along with their occupations, ages, families, and education.

Asian immigrants dominated the neighborhood by their sheer numbers. By 1910, both the Japanese and Chinese immigrants had fashioned a distinctive Japantown and a New Chinatown. Until the 1940's, Japanese residents claimed Third Ave. as the heart of Japantown, while New Chinatown was centered along NW Fourth Ave. To outsiders, the sights, sounds and smells of Third and Fourth Avenues were unmistakably Asian, but the divisions between the two ethnic groups were untidy. Japanese gambling clubs, restaurants and fish markets were located on Fourth Ave, alongside Chinese gambling parlors and groceries; Chinese mercantile stores and lotteries were located on Third Ave., not to mention the Jewish shoe repair and second hand shops, Filipino restaurants, and Greek groceries nestled among them on both streets. It was nothing if not the most exotic

international experience in Portland!

Even single buildings, like the historic Pally building at the SW corner of Third and Everett (now The Great Era Oriental Import store), simultaneously rented space to different ethnic groups through the 1960's. The Pally Building housed the Japanese-run Mikado Hotel and the basement Japanese bathhouse and laundry for thirty years prior to World War II, as well as the Filipino Cannery Workers union, and the Chinese Hop Sing Tong.

Today, Joanne Hong is discovering that the restoration of the Hung Far Low sign is more expensive than she first thought. Her desire has a history, however. When the Chinese were granted citizenship and the right to buy property after World War II, she and her late husband, Donald, purchased the Pally Building and independently placed it on the national historic register in 1985, four years before the creation of the Chinatown Historic District. Her recent purchase of the Hung Far Low building, its restoration, and the commitment to restore the famous sign is another indication that Old Town Chinatown has an unsung heroine. She may be the only remaining business and property owner in the neighborhood who actually grew up in Chinatown. She could use our help.



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Old Town Chinatown's Diversity and International Attractions Make It The Heart of Portland



1. China Gate: NW 4th and Burnside.
2. Portland Classical Chinese Garden and Gift Shop: NW 3rd and Everett St.
3. Chinese Import Stores: NW 3rd and Everett St.

4. Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association: 315 NW Davis St.
5. Oregon Jewish Museum: 310 NW Davis St.
6. Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center: 121 NW 2nd Ave.
7. Japanese American Historical Plaza: North end of Tom McCall Waterfront Park.
8. Bronze Plaques: Self-guided walking tour. Pick up the tour map at Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Oregon Jewish Museum, Portland Saturday Market, and Portland Classical Chinese Garden.

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