



# Fair Family

# NEWS

Volume 15, Issue 7

ONE CREATIVE FAMILY

December 2007

## Family Album

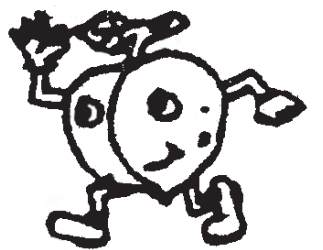


Photo ©1987 Domenic deFazio

## Oh Tannenbaum!



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## Fair Family Calendar

### December

20 Elders Committee Meeting, 6:00, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene  
 24-January 2 — OCF office closed

### January 2008

7 Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm, EWEB Community Room, 4th and High, Eugene  
 7 FAIR FAMILY NEWS DEADLINE  
 20 Highway pickup, 10 am, meet at the Warebarn on site  
 24 Elders Committee Meeting, 7 pm, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene  
 28 Board of Directors Meeting to approve 2008 budgets, 7 pm, Central Presbyterian Church, 15th and Ferry, Eugene  
 29 Meeting to discuss upland kitchen, 6 pm, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene

### July

11, 12, 13 The Peach will be great in 2008

## Happy Birthday to Our Fair Family Capricorns

Aleta Miller ..... Security  
 Anna Scott ..... Energy Park  
 Barney Beguhl..... Main Camp  
 Brad Lerch ..... Fair Family News  
 Carol DeFazio ..... Crafter  
 Christie Hess ..... Water Crew  
 Dahlia Lerch..... Fair Family News  
 David Hoffman..... Community Village  
 David Richey ..... Registration  
 David Roth ..... Information  
 David Sommerville ..... Cookie Cart  
 Dennis Todd..... Childcare  
 Eve Pagliaro ..... Crafter  
 Hilary Anthony ..... Treasurer  
 Jayne Syverson ..... Office Crew  
 Judy Scott ..... Water  
 Katie Gomez..... Crafter  
 Kehn (Mambo) Gibson..... Security  
 Kelsey Polk..... Registration  
 Kiffen Rentel ..... Pre-Post Security  
 Lance Tanner..... Recycling  
 Lori Bennett..... Traffic  
 Marcy Middleton..... NRT  
 Mike Largent..... Lot Crew  
 Mike Warshafsky..... Lot Crew  
 Owl Jester ..... Pre-post security  
 Paul Eddy ..... Lot Crew  
 Reese Prouty ..... Fair Central  
 Sandi Herb ..... Traffic  
 Steve Harter ..... Construction  
 Sunny Nine ..... Booth #487  
 Travis Honea..... Registration  
 Virgil Courtright..... Archaeology



**Keep In Touch**

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## New OCF Website

Have you seen our new website? Our public site, [oregoncountryfair.org](http://oregoncountryfair.org), has had a makeover. Check it out and let us know what you think.



## FFN Online Edition

Don't forget to check out the Fair Family News online edition at [oregoncountryfair.net](http://oregoncountryfair.net)

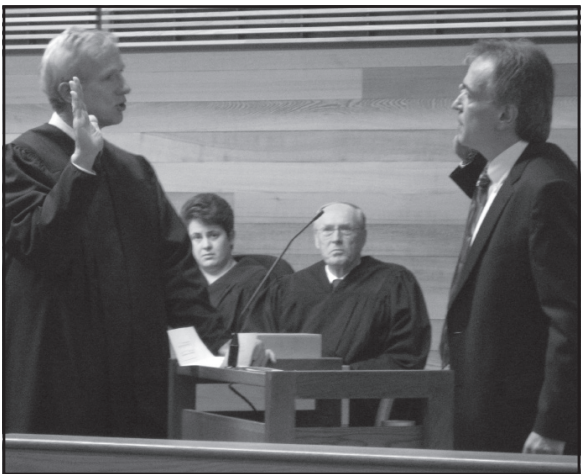


photo by Steve "Grumpy" Gorham

## Fair judge!

Longtime Fair volunteer, BUM and former Board member Charlie Zennaché (right) was sworn in as a Lane County Circuit Court judge on Dec. 8, by Circuit Court Judge Douglas Mitchell, who volunteers for the Fair's Info Crew. Congratulations, Charlie!

## You Say it's Your Birthday?

It's the end of the year and you never saw your birthday listed in the Fair Family News. Could be we don't know you and your birthday. So, please drop us a note (e-mail or postcard) and let us know your name, Fair affiliation and birthday and we'll be sure to join your well wishers at the appropriate time.

When e-mailing us your birthday, use [office@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:office@oregoncountryfair.org).

## Send Healing Energy

Monte Mathews, long-time Fair Family member, was a victim of the storms we had this month in the Northwest. A tree fell on him, severely injuring his spine. Monte is recuperating from surgery and would love to receive cards from his fellow Fairies. Please do not send flowers, food or balloons. By the time you get this, Monte may be accepting visitors; please call first.



photo by "Mambo" Gibson

On other fronts, the logger hired to remove the tree that fell on Monte has donated the entire tree to Monte, as well as the transportation to get it to a mill. And one of Monte's longtime family friends, who belongs to the Cheyenne Tribe of Montana, reports that the tribe is holding a Healing Circle for Monte. The circle of our prayers, meditations and thoughts grows ever larger.

Please continue to send all the healing white light and positive energy you can. Monte's partner, Rita, conveys her deep appreciation for all the energy people have already directed Monte's way; it has made an incredible impact.

Mail cards to: Monte Mathews, Sacred Heart Medical Center, 1255 Hilyard Street, Eugene, OR 97401.

For patient information, call 541-686-6962.



## Get on the FFN and/or Voting Membership List

Some of you may still not be on the lists of your choice, namely, the mailing list that will get you this newsletter every month and/or the membership list so you can vote!!!! So, check some of the following and mail to: OCF, Membership/Mailing, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene, 97401.

[ ] I am not receiving the Fair Family News. Please put me on the mailing list.  
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## FFN Forest



## Recently Unclassified Material

We accept UnClassifieds up to 30 words for \$5 each, per issue. Send listing with \$5 to O.C.F.-F.F.N. 442 Lawrence St. Eugene, OR 97401. Questions, or for info. about display underwriting Email bradlerch@aol.com or call Brad @ 541- 485-8265 (UnClassifieds not paid for by paste-up won't run)

Artists are invited to submit digital images of work related to the theme of track & field sports for a juried exhibit that coincides with the 2008 Olympic Team Trials at historic Hayward Field in Eugene: Track Town USA, May 30-July 11, 2008. Work in all media, especially photography, is sought. The postmark deadline is April 8, 2008. Application forms and prospectuses are available at the Art Center or at [www.mkartcenter.org](http://www.mkartcenter.org)

Peace on Earth and best wishes for a safe and Happy 2008!

## OCF Elders Info

**OCF Elders Committee Web Page:**

[www.ocfelderscouncil.org/ocfeccommittee/ocfec.html](http://www.ocfelderscouncil.org/ocfeccommittee/ocfec.html)

**Council of Elders Web Site:**

<http://www.ocfelderscouncil.org/index.html>

**To join the Elder listserve:**

WonderfulOCFelders-owner@yahoo.com

**eMail Elders:** [ocfelders@hotmail.com](mailto:ocfelders@hotmail.com) or PHONE OCF office.

**OCF Fair Family Wiki:**

<http://wholecountryfair.pbwiki.com/FrontPage>

**OCF Fair Family Listserve:**

[org.opn.lists.ocfdiscuss@lists.opn.org](mailto:org.opn.lists.ocfdiscuss@lists.opn.org)



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Dominic DeFazio as Dr. Candle at his Fair booth in 1976. Inset: Toys!

## RENAISSANCE ROOTS

# A Tale of Two Toymakers

by Suzi Prozanski, *Fair Family News*; © 2007 Suzi Prozanski  
photos © DeFazio Family Archives (FFN, Crafters)

This installment of *Renaissance Roots* honors the winter holidays by featuring an interview with toymakers Dominic and Susanna DeFazio. They have been making handmade wooden toys for more than 30 years, selling at the Renaissance Faire/Oregon Country Fair, the Saturday Markets in Eugene and Portland, and other craft venues. Nowadays, Papa Don's Toys has grown so much that most of its sales come from the wholesale market, but Dominic and Susanna still enjoy coming back every year to their rustic booth at the Oregon Country Fair.

### "Among kindred spirits"

"We knew Cindy Wooten from the (Olde) Oregon Christmas Fair, or the Dickens Faire," Dominic DeFazio says. "When she was in charge of it, it was such an amazing event. Like a little Country Fair. It was like an indoor village. On Saturday night, the entertainers would put on a show for the craftspeople. Rev. Chumleigh was often there. ... There was more vaudeville. It wasn't all music."

"They'd have a whole Circus-kind of thing, with a theme for the show," Susanna says.

"Then we'd have a party," Dominic says. "The Christmas Faire ran for two weeks; it was a long time, every day. It was part of what made the crafters a community here, with the entertainment and all of us getting together."

"Cindy and Bill Wooten, and others like them, these are people who manifested a vision," Susanna says. "We chose the Sonoran desert to have a baby. Arizona was my spirit home. But Oregon felt like a place to raise a family. It was the whole community thing happening here, because of people like the Wootens, and the food co-ops and the sense of community around the Saturday Market."

"We decided to live here to be among kindred spirits," Dominic says. "In other parts of the country, this is not so readily available. ... This whole (Eugene) area was so vibrant in 1968. It blew me away. ... It was just totally magical here."

### Little Sheba

Dominic and Susanna first attended the Renaissance Faire as part of the general public in 1971.

"Susi and I had just met a few months earlier," Dominic says. "We were on our way to Alaska and we stopped in Eugene because my sister lived here. She and her husband suggested we go to the Fair. They thought that we'd be interested in the Fair, and indeed they were right. ...

"It was called the Renaissance Fair. I absolutely fell in love with it," Dominic says. "It was a large gathering of kindred souls, and I was totally impressed. I remember it was wet, and a little rainy that day, but it didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm of anyone."

"At that time," Susanna says, "it was already not a 'Renaissance' fair in terms of medieval costumes." Instead of velvets and chain mail, they remember people dressed in all kinds of outfits inspired by many cultures, from Native American buckskins to the white robes of gurus from India. They even enjoyed a performance by an exotic dancer with a snake.

As they walked along the path, they came upon a carnival barker who was "luring the crowd in to this trail that went through the woods," Dominic says. "He was advertising that he had an exotic dancer called Little Sheba, and for a ticket — the price wasn't more than 25 or 50 cents — you could go take this little path to the back and go see Little Sheba perform. Well, we couldn't resist, could we Susi? And Little

Sheba turned out to be an attractive woman in Middle Eastern belly-dancing garb with a large boa constrictor wrapped around her. And she actually did dance and entertain us. We all sat on hay bales that were stacked up to create a grandstand. ... There was a tremendous amount of mosquitoes back there in the woods. I don't think the rain deterred them at all. There were just hordes of mosquitoes. ...

"I left feeling we got our money's worth," Dominic says, "but more than that, it was just, Oh, this is so exciting that people can actually make a bit of money, make a little living, with their own

creativity, with just being able to put something together for the weekend and walk out of here with a few bucks. That really sold me, I think, more than anything. ... I remember leaving that one in '71 and saying, 'I am coming back here, and I'm going to be a part of this, this is just too fantastic.' And I just knew it, I just knew that my destiny was tied up with this Country Fair."

From 1971 to 1973, Dominic and Susanna "were always traveling on the edge of total poverty," Dominic says. "It was pick-up job to pick-up job, without much security

whatsoever." They had a baby while Dominic was working on a construction job in Tucson, Arizona. But the work became sporadic, so after their daughter was born, they came to Eugene to visit Dominic's sister, Carol. Dominic says that trip "was just a blessing. It was a godsend."

### "Chomping at the bit"

"A convergence of three events got us going in crafts," Dominic says. "We had a baby who was 6 months old; I didn't have a job and I was flat-out broke; and we visited the Eugene Saturday Market. ...

"As I wandered around the Market and I saw people making a living selling things that they had made, I got extremely excited about that because for me it was a way out of these dead-end low-paying jobs," Dominic says. "I had a family now. I had a baby, and maybe I could get by on my own with lousy jobs but I couldn't really have a family and do that any more. ... I said, let's give this a try. So we did. ... We made crib mobiles because we had made one for our daughter and she loved it. And Susi did some sewing, making baby quilts."

Susanna did most of the crafting that first summer in 1973, while Dominic remodeled a garage for them to live in. The first mobiles were made of "pieces of driftwood and fishing line and beads and sparkly little glass things," Dominic says. "They were so light and wispy and they danced in the slightest breeze. But you had to tie them up high so the baby couldn't actually grab them."

"I'd go buy costume jewelry at Goodwill and garage sales and string the beads on the mobile," Susanna says. But when people started to ask if the mobiles were safe for teething, Susanna started making the mobiles out of big, chunky beads and thick string. "They had a whole different feeling," Susanna says. "It was the first example of going with what the public demanded. Then we started making sunbonnets. And then the rainy season came and I went and bought old tablecloths, old oilcloth at Goodwill and made rainbonnets."

Susanna says Dominic always came along to the market with her that first season. "He was kind of chomping at the bit," she says. "He thought he could do better, you know, sell more, come up with a product that would really sell."

"Oh, we were entrepreneurs, that's for sure," Dominic says "We had the bit in our mouths and we were running with it. So the actual wooden toys started, I think it was October, or maybe November."

"Rainbonnet season," Susanna says.

### "Path to financial freedom"

"I had finished the remodeling job on the garage we were living in and so I decided to give toy-making a try," Dominic says. "I hadn't done any woodworking before, so it was definitely a learning experience. But I made a few things, a few rattles, and this one old-fashioned toy that we called Happy Harry, which was this flipping acrobat. We named him after this crazy hippy we'd met in Arizona. ...

"We made a handful of toys and first showed them at the Albany Saturday Market," Dominic says. "They were trying the Saturday Market concept. ... I set up a little card table and had those Happy Harrys out there and a few rattles I'd made and wouldn't you know it, they were a huge hit and I sold all of them. ...

"I was just ecstatic," he says. "I remember driving home on the freeway with Susi and my sister Carol who had come up..., and I was just high as a kite. I had seen a path to financial freedom and I was going to grab it and run with it because I liked making the toys, I liked selling the toys, and I liked the feeling. It was a very wonderful sense of self-esteem that I got which I didn't get at any other kind of work that I did. ... And I gotta say, that feeling never left. We've been making toys for 30 years and I've always felt a tremendous sense of gratefulness, having the opportunity to make a living virtually on my own terms. Boy, that is priceless. It's not for everybody. But it was just perfect for me and Susi, that's for sure."

So they phased out the quilts and the bonnets, and Susanna also learned to do woodworking.

“So here it was October (1973) and this is our first Saturday Market season,” Dominic says. “Every Saturday we were down there at the Market, selling our things and every Saturday we sold more. ... So there was this, you know, oh, boy, I’ll make twice as much for next week. And for us, now, remember, we were living very modestly, so for us, it was a fabulous Christmas season and we made enough money to get through the winter when there wasn’t any Saturday Market. In fact, we went traveling. Didn’t we go down to Arizona that winter? And then we came back up for April when the Market started and did it all over again. Kept evolving the products, bringing out new things all the time, and gave them a week or two on the shelf and if ... they didn’t sell, they were gone, they were history. I didn’t try and force anything, ... I just figured out what they wanted.”

## Two Markets and a Faire

At first, they used basic woodworking tools, but eventually upgraded several times to the heavy-duty tools they use today. “I went around and asked a lot of questions,” Dominic says. “I went around the Market, and I saw the woodworkers and I talked to them, and I’d say, well, how did you do that? That really nice smooth curve there. ‘Oh, well, just used a bandsaw, routed the edge and then I sanded it.’ Most of them were very good at sharing.”

Susanna says that Dick Cross and “Norman, the boat-man, who still makes rubber-band paddle-boats ... were like elders to us. They were probably not that much older, but they were more experienced woodworkers.”

“Little by little, our skills got better developed.” Dominic says.

In 1974, they started doing the Saturday Market in both Eugene and Portland. That same year, Dominic and Susanna signed up for a craft booth at the Renaissance Faire. They claimed a spot in a small sunny clearing near the top of the figure 8, as far away from the Junction as they could get, because they were concerned that the Drum Tower noise would keep the baby awake. Their booth neighbors, Ahimsa and Moon, put up a tipi and built a campfire out front, where they cooked beans in a big, cast-iron pot. It was a free kitchen, and they gave away bowls of beans to anyone who came by hungry.

Over the years, the trees have grown up and their booth is now in the woods, but at first it was in a clearing. “It was open there, it felt a lot more open,” Dominic says. And the whole Fair was less crowded, they say. “You could shortcut through the woods to get anywhere at the Fair,” Susanna says. “I used to walk straight through the woods to get to the entrance or to Community Village or to get to Main Stage; it was completely unpopulated in there. You could just freely travel through the inner core of the 8.”

## “Atmosphere of creativity”

Dominic and Susanna would take turns staying with the booth so the other one could go to the shows.

“I remember Chumleigh and Chumleighland starting up,” Susanna says. “He used to be a fire-eater on the path, he was the Flaming Zucchini.”

Dominic adds: “I gotta say, Avner the Eccentric, Roberto the juggler, and later this guy Hacki were the best classic acts I’ve ever seen at the Fair. ... Seeing people like Chumleigh and seeing these folks get out there, they were brave people. They started this whole vaudeville thing, they got up on these stages and did these things, it was very inspiring for me. Now I’m not an actor or performer, but it definitely encouraged me to be my inner ham and to bring my inner ham out. I think we all played a lot, it was sort of infectious, the whole atmosphere of creativity.”

During the ‘70s, Dominic says the Renaissance Faire encouraged people to wear costumes. He remembers seeing the Society for Creative Anachronism coming in costume, helping create a Renaissance feel. But at the same time, one of the vehicle stickers had an image of an 1890s Model T Ford. “It was kind of a mixed message,” he says. “So, what it really meant to me was put some old-fashioned costume or clothing on and go out there and play.”

“The character that came out of me was this 1860s itinerant salesman I called Dr. Candle, Dr. Thelonus Candle,” Dominic says. “I had kind of a homemade costume ... and I just found that this character was a really deep part of me that needed expression. So when I got into him, I was lost in him for the whole duration of the Fair. ... I was loving it. It was acting, theatrics, playfulness, and I absolutely loved that character. I used him at all these craft fairs, these other ones that would have costume themes: the Wootens’ Christmas shows, the Dickens shows, things of that nature, always brought out Dr. Candle. It was fun. ... In fact, I did him so much that some of my friends started calling me ‘Doc.’ ... I never was a salesman, I always felt like my toys sold themselves, so I never really tried to put the muscle on people as far as buying my toys. But this Dr. Candle, he was more of a showman.”

## “I felt like a sentient plant”

One of Susanna’s characters was Ma Titillatia, her belly was painted as a smiley face and her breasts were moving eyes. But Susanna says the year she became a tree stands out as one of her peak Fair experiences (*see cover photo*).

“I stood near the exit as people were leaving and people didn’t see me,” Susanna says. “I was right out in the open — but then when they did, they would do a double-take, it was amazing.”

“It was fabulous,” Dominic says. “She just stood still with these fir boughs covering her from head to foot and as long as she stood still, you wouldn’t know it. And if you peered closely, you saw this face looking back at you. It was eerie. It was freaky.”

She was covered with plant material, with moss on her legs and “my whole body was tingling and I felt so serene,” Susanna says. “It was a transformative moment in my life. I felt like a sentient plant. ... I felt the energy of plants on me and the energy of the soil under my feet. ... I became that tree. It was absolutely magical! What a huge payoff, being transformed by the Fair and the creativity and the people — especially the ones who really stopped and watched me — the ones who really saw me and looked me right in the eyes. Oh my God! It was pretty amazing.”

“I’m so happy and grateful,” Dominic says, “because the Fair gave me an opportunity to express myself and these other selves in me. I put costumes on them and they just leap to life. ... I don’t think I could have found myself if it wasn’t for the Country Fair, because there was such permission-giving there. And still is.”

Their son and daughter have always loved the Fair, and even as children found ways to participate. Their daughter Diana had a place in the booth where she sold necklaces she made, and their son Daniel performed in the paths as a juggling stilt-walker. Diana, who’s now 34, missed the Fair only once when she was out of the country, and Daniel, 27, has never missed a Fair.

In 1976, Dominic’s sister, Carol DeFazio, joined them at the Fair, stringing an 8-foot clothesline next to the booth to display her handmade sundresses. Carol was pregnant that year with her daughter, Harmony, who also has never missed a Fair. Carol’s craft has evolved over the years and she now has a booth close to Papa Don’s Toys, “selling capes, fairy wings and other fantasy accessories to the young and young-at-heart,” Carol says.

## “We were wilder”

Dominic says they’ve seen a lot of changes at the Fair through the years.

“It started out as a village and now we’re a city — a big city,” Dominic says. “It was also much more anarchistic at first. People really wanted to set their own rules and do their own thing. We were wilder and pushing the boundaries every which way. We had to be reminded that we have not seceded from the union and that we were still bound by the laws of the country. We’ve evolved. Now we’re older, with families and kids. It’s good to see that the young people still want to be there. They still want to be a part of it. ...

“One thing that I have missed, that was an integral part of the experience for me, were the individual campfires in front of the booths,” Dominic says “As you walked around the 8 at night, you could just go from one fire to another. There were gatherings everywhere — one would have music, another would have talking or storytelling. And you felt totally accepted: Accepted to walk into the campfire circle, and accepted to leave and move on to the next circle when you wanted. ... The campfires would transport you into another era — like diamonds on a necklace all along the 8.”

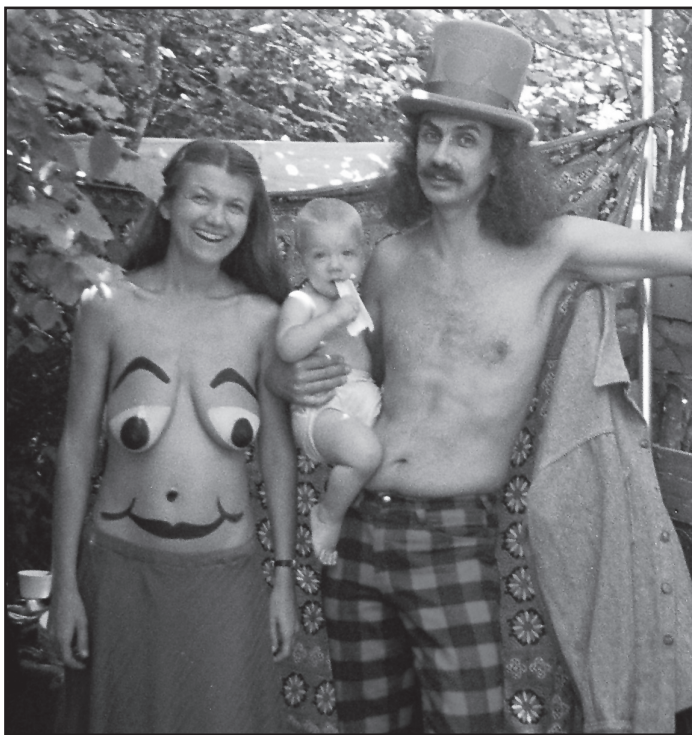
## “A gift of sheer love”

Despite all of the changes the Fair has gone through, Dominic says “the love has been a consistent thread through all of them. The sense of community has not changed at all. There’s a bonding that comes from sharing this experience. It keeps me coming back. ... There’s a sense of love that happens in the audience when the Circus band first gets on stage and plays the ‘Teddy Bear’s Picnic.’ The entertainers give a gift of sheer love

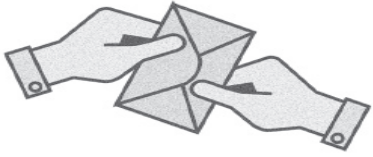
and openheartedness. And it makes you feel loved and openhearted right back. It sets it all in motion. It still does. ... After 30 years, the Circus still brings tears to my eyes. There’s so much energy and love. And it can’t be for the money. It’s definitely about more than that.”

“It’s great to see all of these people who were babies and now are adults,” Susanna says. “And the Fair has influenced them. They have a respect for the land and an appreciation for the ideals of the Sixties: Peace, love, play, creativity. I see that in my kids and in their friends. This means so much to them! It helps families bond together.”

“I read in letters to the editor in the Fair Family News that there’s a lot of people out there who get their hit of how life should be — of living in community — once a year at the Fair. But it’s not like that out there in the ‘real’ world where they live day to day,” Susanna says. “Some of us live in that ideal world all year round — that world of community. I feel so blessed. I wish the Fair wasn’t a once-a-year-experience for most people. I wish there was a way they could get that sense of community, that sense of connection to the land — in their ‘real’ lives. I wish there were more Fairs in other states. More Fair families!”



Susanna, Daniel and Dominic at the 1981 Fair.



## Family Letters

*This newsletter is directed to the Oregon Country Fair Family and all material is volunteered from the membership.*

*Opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Fair or the FFN.*

*Letters must be limited to 300 words. They will be edited for length and clarity. Please include name, Fair Affiliation and a method of communication (i.e. phone number or e-mail).*



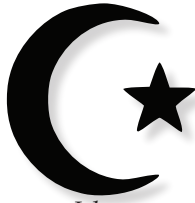
Judaism



Christianity



Hinduism



Islam



Buddhism



Shinto



Sikhism



Bahá'í Faith



Jainism

## Representing Religions Symbolically

Dear friendly Fair Family News staff,

Enclosed is the cover of my neighbor's missionary journal. Hopefully it will be helpful for your December issue.

OCF "walks it's talk" by having a wide variety of spiritual symbols each December. However, the Buddhists are usually left out. The symbol enclosed is used by all lineages, is not controversial, and promotes no single sect.

In the past, one to five "Hasidic Peaches" (hats, beards, curls, etc.) have been used to represent Judaism. The Star of David is, of course, more appropriate as it represents the larger traditions. It is used by all lineages of Judaism, with some African exceptions, and not controversial.

We Jews and Buddhists notice these things. So, in the hope of nudging our bloodthirsty world ever closer to kindness and co-existence,

the enclosed images are sent for your use.

Thank you for your work. May we all get to experience more and more moments of Peace.

Kali Kaliche  
Crafter

Dear Kali,

Thank you for the images. As you can see, we have accepted your gracious education and have put them to use. We meant no insult with our too-narrow set of symbols, and plead mere expedience as we rush through the numerous details involved with production. We are pleased now to offer a more accurate graphic representation of our inclusive impulse. We encourage all readers to share their wisdom and knowledge with us and our Fair Family.

—the Editors

## Chautauqua Travel Notes: Going Down the Road Feeling Good

by Joannie Murayama, Fair Elder & Vice President New Old Time Chautauqua

On behalf of the New Old Time Chautauqua, thank you all, dear Oregon Country Fair Board, Staff and Family, for the kind and generous support you have given to us over the years. Your good wishes and blessings inspire and encourage us as we continue our work of community-building with friendship and fun.

In 1981, the Flying Karamazov Brothers, Dr. Patch Adams and other intrepid performers and educators founded a traveling Medicine Show and Educational Circus. The idea was to combine entertainment with education, mirth with meaning — sort of a mobile version of the Fair.



Karamazov Brothers Juggling in the Round

photo by Chris Bennion

Every summer, friends gather, perform, work and play at the Country Fair. After experiencing the Fair's magic and merriment, we take a bit of that magic with us as we tour communities in the Northwest.

With support and friendship all along the way, we have continued to make annual journeys to serve diverse populations in rural, small and large cities. (Sometimes our 50-plus troupe makes quite an impact on a tiny rural town!) We present shows and workshops in theaters, parks, school auditoriums, hospitals, nursing homes, jails, juvenile detention facilities — wherever folks can come together to form communities through laughter and joy.

Although community work and performances in institutions has long been a part of our residencies, our commitment to service was strengthened after putting on free shows for Hurricane Katrina Survivors and the heroic relief workers in New Orleans and the coast of Mississippi. There, we performed in relief kitchens, volunteer headquarters, a church, a school, and a train station that was operating as a first aid clinic. (However,

we did take time out for a Chautauqua-style guerilla parade in the French Quarter.)

This summer, the Big Sky Vaudeville Tour presented parades, shows and workshops in Spokane (WA), Troy (MT), Eureka (MT), Browning (MT), Missoula (MT), Polson (MT), Hot Springs (MT) and Eagle (ID). The Vaudeville shows included music, juggling, magic, dance, aerial, acro-balancing, and comedy. The workshops covered juggling, acrobatics, making instruments out of recycled materials, quilt-making, samba drumming, mask-making, magic, rope-walking, song swap and the Inconvenient Truth slide show about Global

Warming.

In 2007, the Rex Foundation (founded by the Grateful Dead) honored Chautauqua with the Ralph Gleason Award. That generous financial assistance, along with donations from Stage Left and Chez Ray's at the OCF, helped fund this year's tour, making it possible for the Big Sky Vaudeville Tour to partner with local nonprofit organizations and community projects.

Our shows raised funds for a community radio station (KYRS), Sunburst Foundation and Family Concepts, two organizations which support at-risk youth and their families, the Boys and Girls Club of the Blackfoot Nation, art and music programs in Troy schools, and the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Idaho. In November, during a mini-tour of the San Juan Islands, we helped raise funds for the Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and Islands' Oil Spill Association.

Chautauqua's Community Quilts Project donated 60 quilts to infants at risk physically, emotionally, or financially challenged. Since 1992, we have donated 660 quilts to babies who need a little extra love and comfort.

In Summer 2008, we will be part of the first an-

nual Great Peninsula Future Festival in Port Gamble (WA), a gathering to raise awareness about a broad range of sustainability issues including alternative energy, food, community and more. Sandra Bauer, a member of the original collective that founded the Oregon Country Fair, is on the organizing team. Like the Fair, it will mix good food, good fun and great information about creating healthy and solution-oriented communities.

We are honored to represent you all as the Alternative Culture's Ambassadors of Good Will, Friendship and Laughter.

Thanks again. Best wishes for a wonderful New Year!



Godfrey Daniels

photo by Mark Gardiner

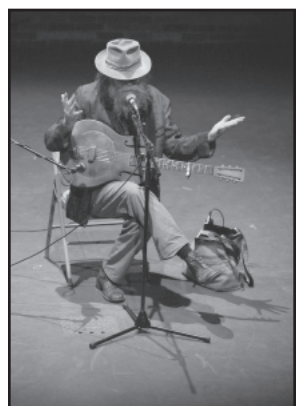
There are more than 200 Chautauquans. The core members are all Fair Family, as are most of the performers and educators. Here is a list of the performers who graced the stages of New Old Time Chautauqua in 2007:

Amber Tide, Avner the Eccentric, Stephen "Foolio" Bent, David Clay, Baby Gramps, Godfrey Daniels, Mark Ettinger, Fighting Instruments of Karma Marching Chamber Band/Orchestra, Flying Karamazov Brothers, Tim Furst, Hacki, Happenstance, Haute Trash, Jambalaya Brass Band, Juggling Jollies, Kaiyama, Mamazon, Kevin Murphy, Super Noodlini and Family, Land Phil-Harmonics, Frank Olivier, One Two, Nanda, Jim Page, Faith Petric, Joey Pipia, The Planets, Shoehorn, Spike and Boom Boom, Christian Swensen, Cathy Sutherland, Vanessa Vortex, Vern and Dream.



Fighting Instruments of Karma Marching Chamber Band/Orchestra

photo by Michelle Bates



Baby Gramps in Spokane

photo by Michelle Bates



**Present:** Diane Albino, Danya Ariel, Katie Cousins, Lara Howe, Jack M-karchek, Deane Morrow, Joseph Newton and Palmer Parker (alternates), Carl Taylor, Bear Wilner-Nugent.

**Not:** Paxton Hoag, Lawrence Taylor. (*Palmer and Joseph voted all evening.*)

#### Announcements

Deane said he and others "did a lot of research" and included in the Board packet a copy of a motion passed by the Board in December 2003. He said the "long and short" of what they found is that "the Board approved recording." He said he would "like to continue recording the Board meetings if that's not a problem and we'll figure out what to do with them later" but that he didn't bring his recorder tonight. Bear said that "sounds like an agenda item for next month." Barbara said the 2003 motion included in the Board packet was "to allow Board meetings to be digitally filmed" and the background on it was that it was specific to video recordings made by a former Board member. (*Update: Deane decided not to place his request on the agenda because there is already one other motion dealing with recording meetings.*)

Lara said the next upland kitchen meeting is at 6pm on Tues. Jan. 29 at the town office.

#### Approval of Minutes

Palmer moved and Katie seconded to approve the minutes of the November 2007 Board meeting. The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed. Barbara said there was one correction: the Youth Services Committee is actually called the Youth Development Committee.

#### Member Input

Jen-lin Hodgden (Feedback Coordinator) thanked Andy, Kay, Katie, and Steve for "supplies, cocoa, cider, everything for yesterday's wreath-making party."

Lara mentioned how much she is enjoying the Renaissance Roots series of articles in the Fair Family News and sent out a thank you to author Suzi Prozanski.

Palmer referred to information given during 'agenda review' time at the beginning of the meeting. Deane placed "Bringing Back the Bow" on the agenda and Palmer wanted more information about what that meant. (*It's the name of an organization that Deane is sponsoring for a donation.*)

norma requested that Board members word their agenda items more carefully so that the membership will better understand what will be discussed.

#### Staff and Officer Reports

**General Manager:** Leslie's 92-year-old father traveled to Eugene from Florida for the Thanksgiving holiday. Leslie spent nine days with him and said she is "grateful to the Fair for the time and space for that visit with my Dad." Even though it was a short month things were "extremely busy mostly with budgets and ongoing operational meetings and planning processes." The Endowment cycle is beginning (application forms available from the office or online); the staff has been meeting on Guidelines revisions; the Management Team is sending follow-up letters on incident reports. She thanked web designer Shirley Walker-Combs and norma and Charlie for their work on "the beautiful new website." There was an all-day Budget Committee meeting on Dec. 2 and they completed all the Crew budgets that have been submitted as well as Culture Jam, AA, Site, GM, and Operational budgets. She thanked and praised the Treasurers and Budget Committee members. She thanked Tia Christiansen who resigned as Main Stage Co-Coordinator to take a job as executive director for an arts festival in California. She submitted renewal licenses for campgrounds. She will be out of the office most of January (but will be at the Board meetings) so anyone who needs an appointment with her should make one soon.

**Administrative Assistant:** norma said the new .org website is up and she thanked Leslie, Charlie, Shirley, and Robert Albano. The e-mail problem should be fixed now and norma asked people who had trouble e-mailing the office to try again. The former provider blocked mail from Yahoo, MSN, Hotmail, and Comcast. She prepared the office budget and sent a press release to Fern Ridge schools with endowment information. The office will be closed the last week of December. norma said she'll be out of the office the second half of December "but Robin will be there for the week before Christmas." The Fair will be selling fairaphenalia Dec. 15/16 at Holiday Market (*in the Holiday Hall*). Norma said Chanukah starts "tomorrow" (Dec. 4) and her ancestors would want her to wish everyone a "happy festival of lights."

**Site Manager:** Steve W. thanked Kay Kintzley for initiating and leading the holiday wreath-making party onsite and said even there "we demonstrate good land stewardship" because the sources for the wreath-making supplies come from onsite non-native invasive holly, diseased hybrid pines, and small Douglas fir trees at the Hub that need thinning. He said, "These are plant materials we want to get rid of, and this way they leave the site to beautify someone's home." He said he discovered during the recent storms that rainfall measurements onsite can be "radically different" from Eugene airport measurements (2.23", Dec. 1-4), with the onsite gauge registering more rainfall (5.1", Dec. 1-4). He said, "We'll probably be canoeing onsite tomorrow." He said it was "pretty dismaying" to find new clean-up issues in the past couple weeks. He said, "This is my tenth Fair in this job and I continue to be dismayed and saddened at what 'reverence for the land' means to some people." He can't pinpoint specific campers but said he will communicate with certain campers because "leaving piles of junk behind is just not right." He thanked the VegManEcs

for all their hard work: they were out in the storm on Dec. 2 just ahead of the flood, wrapping trees in the eight with chicken wire to protect them from the beavers. He said those interested in canoeing onsite should check the USGS river gauge in Noti (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv?14166500>) because if it's over 10 feet then the site is flooded enough to canoe. He said to have fun and be safe: "please remember your personal flotation devices and beware of hidden snags and swift currents."

**Assistant Manager:** Charlie said the new .org website looks cool and they'd like to look at ways to improve the .net site. Switching webhost, ISP, and phone service "cut the bills roughly in half." The Fair is now using two local companies, EFN and Integra. He invited folks to "come on out to the site and join us." He talked about the "magical quality" of looking at the full moon through leafless trees and wished "happy holidays of all kinds to everybody."

**Caretaker:** Andy said, "I ditto Steve on clean-up. Pack it in, pack it out."

**Treasurers:** Grumpy couldn't be at tonight's meeting but Hilary said they just have "a few loose ends to follow up but the budget is very close to finished." Last-minute questions will be handled at the January 19 Coordinator Potluck, prior to the annual Board meeting to approve the budget on Monday, January 28 at 7pm at the Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene. The meeting will start with open discussion followed by one agenda item - passing a 2008 budget.

**President:** Jack said the Winter Solstice is almost here and the days are getting longer and "the Fair is in sync with the rhythms of the seasons." He referred to Steve's comments on reverence for the land and encouraged everyone to read the Guidelines, and also reminded everyone that the Guidelines are available on the .net website. He talked about "walking our talk" and encouraged "starting the year off that way." He hopes everyone enjoys the "holidays around Solstice."

#### Committee Reports

##### Elders Committee

Chris Browne read a report from the Nov. 29 meeting where they reviewed their proposed 2008 budget and also reviewed more applications (now 289 Elders). More people have expressed interest in joining the Elders Committee. They would like to maintain membership at 15 people and will "establish a protocol for reviewing the status of the Committee on an annual basis to determine involvement of the members and determine if and when openings in the Committee are available so that new people can come on board." The next meeting will be held on Dec. 20 at 7pm at the town office. There is no specific agenda, "just a meeting to celebrate the holiday season for us all. Bring snacks and holiday treats."

##### Path Planning Committee

Chris Browne read a report from the Nov. 18 meeting where 15 people met in the yurt "in the middle of a pretty good down pour." They approved minutes of their Oct. meeting and "clarified and approved that only appointed Committee members vote on motions." They decided to elect three officers (chair, vice chair, secretary) to serve one-year terms August to August. They plan to acquire more recent drawings and photos to have "as accurate a picture of the property as possible." They use the LUMP Manual as a guideline and "urge everyone to obtain a copy of it and become familiar with its contents." They will form subcommittees to work on specific long and short-term projects and tasks. Their next meeting is Dec. 16 at noon. Probable location is the Hub Yurt, weather permitting, but they will post the definite location on the OCF web page calendar.

#### Old Business

##### Budget Issues

##### Consider Donation to Project Homeless Connect

Lara moved and Carl seconded that the Board donate \$1000 and the use of the OCF radios for Project Homeless Connect.

**Background:** Richie Weinman, co-chair of Project Homeless Connect, said next year's event will be held February 7. This year's event drew 1007 people who received many kinds of services from 322 community volunteers. They provided basic needs assistance (housing info, clothing, medical services) as well as many other services just a few of which are employment info, bike repairs, veterinary services, even haircuts. To volunteer, contact Michelle Lowery at 541-741-6000 or [mlowery@unitedwaylane.org](mailto:mlowery@unitedwaylane.org). To make a cash donation make checks payable to United Way of Lane County - Project Homeless Connect and send to 3171 Gateway Loop, Springfield, OR 97477. More info at [www.homelessconnect.org](http://www.homelessconnect.org).

**Peach Gallery:** Leslie recalled last year's event and the wide variety of services they offered and said "the energy was incredible." Barbara agreed but likes all three donation requests on the agenda and thought \$1000 donation might not leave enough money in the budget for the others. Hilary said the current amount of the donation line item in the 2007 Board budget is \$1950.

**Board:** Joseph said, "If we go a little over budget to help our neighbors I'm okay with that." Jack is "grateful our community understands that homeless people have pets too." Palmer has coordinated the use of OCF radios in the past and knows that radios can backfire, so he's glad there are "radio addicts on staff."

**The motion passed: 9 in favor; 1 opposed (Katie).**

### **Consider Donation to Eugene Education Fund**

Lara moved and Bear seconded that the Board donate \$550 to the Eugene Education Fund.

*Background:* David Meredith, executive director of EEF, spoke of the need for art supplies especially for special needs students. More info at [www.eef.lane.edu](http://www.eef.lane.edu).

*Peach Gallery:* Jen-lin likes that the money will benefit many schools rather than just one.

*Board:* Lara is a fan of “hands-on learning.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

### **Consider Donation to The Backbone Campaign**

Palmer moved and Joseph seconded that the Board donate \$1000 to The Backbone Campaign.

*Background:* Jerry Brule represented The Backbone Campaign and spoke of the current project to build 8-12 large puppets that will tour 10 colleges and hopefully several events as well, possibly including DaVinci Days and the Fair. The project is very expensive. The Fair’s contribution will cover part of the expenses to build a giant origami peace crane (*total cost \$1500*). It costs \$5000 to transport the puppets from one place to another. The peace crane will be part of The Procession for the Future, which is described in their letter to the Board as “a touring parade, using high production value art and spectacle to animate our aspirations and deliver a compelling progressive vision for the country. The giant puppets and floats will portray in iconic form a set of progressive policy priorities including End of War and Dismantling Empire and the Military Industrial Complex.” More info at [www.backbonecampaign.org](http://www.backbonecampaign.org).

*Peach Gallery:* Hilary “likes the overlap” between Fair people and The Backbone Campaign and said some Fair entertainers and people from Chela Mela are involved. She urged Fair Family to help build the puppets on Vashon Island in mid-January. Leslie thinks it’s a fabulous project and asked if the Fair will be publicly recognized in some way for the contribution. (*Jerry didn’t know but will check on this for us.*) Someone said it would be great to have the puppets as part of the OCF entry in the Eugene Celebration Parade, “but I didn’t know it costs \$5000 to transport them.” Andy thought it would be great if they could attend the Fair with the puppets and would support allocating passes for that if necessary. Jen-lin urged support and said she first learned of the group through UMO (*Unidentified Moving Objects*).

*Board:* **Jack suggested a friendly amendment (which was accepted) that the amount they go over budget (\$600) should come out of the Board ‘second event’ line item.** Joseph recently did some data entry of information gleaned from Vision Quest surveys and remarked that one person even asked for “socially relevant puppet shows.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

### **Consider Membership Renewal in CCPA**

Bear moved and Diane seconded that the Board allocate \$1000 to renew membership in the Community Center for the Performing Arts, aka WOW Hall.

*Background:* Bob Fennessy said the Fair is recognized on the back page of the CCPA newsletter and talked up WOW Hall’s annual membership party on Dec. 15.

*Peach Gallery:* Thumbs up.

*Board:* Bear “invoked LT” (*Lawrence Taylor, absent Board member*) by parroting Lawrence’s oft-heard praise for sister organizations WOW Hall, Growers Market, White Bird, and Saturday Market

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

### **Consider Appointment to Endowment Committee**

Lara moved and Deane seconded that the Board appoint Kira Burge to the Endowment Committee.

*Background:* In a letter to the Board, Bill Wooten Endowment Committee member M. Clare Feighan said Kira “comes with youthful enthusiasm and wonderful experience.” Kira will replace outgoing Committee member Richard Rodriques who moved to Hawaii. Kira was at the meeting and said she is originally from Portland and has been going to the Fair for many years. She “loves Eugene” and is interning at DIVA (*Downtown Initiative for the Visual Arts*).

*Board:* Lara said she gets excited “every time our youth step up” and she thanked Kira for stepping up. Joseph also thanked Kira “and the other members of that Committee. Endowment is an important part of what we communicate to our neighbors and the community.” Danya dittoed Lara. Palmer is “glad we gave more than we budgeted to donate.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

### **Consider Appointments to Path Planning Committee**

Deane moved and Katie seconded that the Board appoint five new members to Path Planning Committee: Michael Richard, Tom Churchill, Dean Middleton, Colleen Bauman, and Sylvia Fireman.

*Background:* It took a few minutes to come up with all five names (*the motion started with three names*) but a bit of discussion ensued about one person who they thought had already been appointed but wasn’t, and someone else whose email didn’t get through, etc. (*You get the drift, but the end result of the discussion is the above motion.*)

*Board:* There was some discussion concerning the size of the Committee, and how many is too many. Palmer asked, “Is 25 too big? 50?” **Jack suggested a friendly amendment (accepted by Katie and Deane) putting a moratorium on any more new members after passing this motion.** Lara reminded everyone that you don’t need to be an appointed Committee member to work on a Committee. Joseph summed things up and said the Committee “will find the right balance.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

### **Personnel Committee Groundskeeper Job Description**

Lara moved and Jack seconded that the Personnel Committee create a permanent groundskeeper job description that matches the hours used by Steve Wisnovsky in his site support budget.

*Board:* Joseph said, “Long overdue.” Some nods and dittoes.

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

### **Include TSA’s in PPP Manual**

Jack moved and someone seconded that the Board increase employer contribution from 4% of gross pay to 7% of gross pay and include that in the PPP Manual.

*Background:* (*Note: The employer contribution is in the form of TSA’s (tax-sheltered annuities) and the PPP Manual stands for Personnel Policies and Procedures.*)

*Board:* Lara said, “I’m going to ditto Joseph. Long overdue.” Joseph added, “These people work so hard for us.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

### **Employee Bonuses**

Bear moved and Carl seconded that the Board award each employee \$500 net after withholding, prorated for part-time staff.

*Board:* Palmer said he’ll vote no because his understanding is that the step tables were “created not to have bonuses.” Bear said, “That’s the same comment you made last year.” Lara praised the employees and said, “This is such a little thing compared to what you give.”

The motion passed: 9 in favor; 1 opposed (Palmer “with regrets”).

### **Men’s Retreat**

Katie moved and Jack seconded that the Board use \$3000 from the change line item for a two-day Men’s Retreat at the Fair site.

*Background:* Katie said this idea came out of David Hatfield’s recent empowerment workshop dealing with male youth. She said it’s difficult for men to mentor youth if they haven’t “processed their own stuff.” She “talked to some Fair guys” and chuckled when recounting that one of them said the idea “reeked of health.”

*Peach Gallery:* Hilary said her gut reaction is that the Fair “should be for all of us, not gender specific.” She could support donating money to a men’s program but would object to the Fair actually developing such a program or sponsoring one onsite unless there was similar attention paid to a women’s program. Leslie said while this workshop would be just for boys it is her hope that this is the beginning of Fair educational workshops. She would like to see one just for girls in the Spring, and then later “a gender conversation.” She said this “fits our educational mission” and she has heard men talk about the “tremendous need for this in our community.” Jon Pincus (Elder) likes the idea but agrees with Hilary not to have gender specific events onsite; he suggested maybe sponsoring it elsewhere.

*Board:* Carl wanted more details. “What will \$3000 get us? What will it take to put on the event?” Bear agreed. He has “no problem with gender specific but I’m uncomfortable giving \$3000 without more details.” Joseph would like to support the organization “but not necessarily take it on as our own event.” Diane asked how many people would be served for \$3000? Jack liked the idea, saying, “I think it’s great.” He said he’s “always intrigued by language” and the sound of men’s retreat “rolls off my tongue like I can hardly believe.” Palmer went to a men’s retreat at Breitenbush that was “well worth the expense.” He has been to others too and said, “Every time I go it always changes my life.” Deane said he sees nothing wrong with retreats whether they are for men, women, or kids but he’d “rather spend the money on toilets.” Danya said there’s “not enough information here for me to vote on this.” Bear yielded time back to the Peach Gallery.

*Peach Gallery again:* Leslie said the “genesis for David Hatfield’s workshop came straight out of Culture Jam.” She proposed tabling the motion and that she and Katie “flesh out the proposal.” Steve W. would like to know schedule and facilities expectations and said there’s usually “an exploration process ahead of time before voting.” (*Katie said two days in April or May, for about 30 men.*) Charlie said he’d be happy to work with Katie and Leslie. He said it was important to “educate men in emotional expression” and for men to “pass it on to male youth.” Hilary “understands there is a huge problem with masculinity” but said there is also “a huge problem with femininity.” She said, “We should commit to doing things equally, I don’t want to see it one-sided.”

Katie decided to table the motion until the January Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Men’s Retreat (Katie); Motion to Allow Internet Committee to Record Board Meetings (Joseph - formerly called Revisit Policy on Recording Meetings); as well as the following new business: Consider Donation to Yachats Community Health Center (Joseph); Consider Donation to Bringing Back the Bow (Deane); Appoint Main Stage Co-Coordinator; Consider Appointments to Personnel and Peach Power Committees; Community Village Food Booth Policy; Clarify Second Sabbatical/PPP (Jack); Consider Guidelines Amendments (*they will be read into the minutes in January and voted on in February*); Implementing Food Ballot Measure (Joseph); Adopt Vision Quest Report (Bear). Deane tabled his motion on Toilets and Handwashing until the February Board meeting.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Richard Dawkins (“The God Delusion”) for the following quote: “Science flings open the narrow window through which we are accustomed to viewing the spectrum of possibilities... I genuinely don’t know the answer, but I am thrilled to be alive at a time when humanity is pushing against the limits of understanding. Even better, we may eventually discover that there are no limits.”