

PEGGY MINTERLICENSED TAX PREPARER
at Corry's Tax Services in the Gresham areaFRIENDLY, ACCURATE,
PROFESSIONAL, AFFORDABLESPECIALIZING IN
TAX PREPARATION
SERVICES FOR
ALTERNATIVE FAMILIES
Also: small business bookkeeping
& payroll services**503-661-6456**745 NE 239th Place, Wood Village, OR 97060
peggyminter@comcast.netMENTION THIS AD
FOR A 15% DISCOUNTPromoting Natural
Habitats for People
and WildlifeFull Service Provider:
landscape design to
installation!**Circadian**

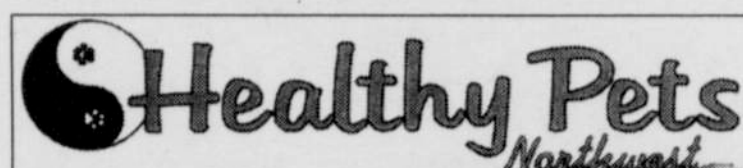
Consulting & Design, LLC

Gail A. Dresner

Professional Landscape Designer

503.349.4578 (cell)

http://circadian.us/ • LCB# 8343



Healthy Pets Northwest
THE NATURAL ALTERNATIVE FOR PET FOODS & SUPPLIES

1402 A SE 39th (39th & Hawthorne) • 503-236-8036
2224 NE Alberta • 503-249-6571
www.healthypetsnw.com



YES! WE DELIVER.

All Natural Foods • Herbal & Homeopathic Remedies • Pesticide Free • Allergy Products



Jerilyn Lowery
Cell: (503) 860-0342
jlowery@reyreece.com



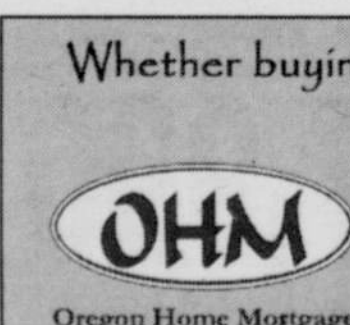
Drive with Pride
REY REECE VOLKSWAGEN

122nd & East Burnside
(503) 256-3700
(800) 283-0592

Drivers wanted!
Drive It. You'll get it.

Visit us online at: www.reyreece.com or schedule your appointment.

Whether buying, selling, refinancing or investing, we can help!
Expect More.



OHM
Oregon Home Mortgage
www.oregonhomemtg.com



Jen Bell
Loan Officer
Oregon Home Mortgage, 8755 SW Citizens Dr. #206
Wilsonville, OR 97070
office: 503-682-5040, cell: 503-939-4139
jbells@oregonhomemtg.com



Roots Realty
www.rootsrealty.com

Jen Nelson
Realtor, Principal Broker
ABR (Accredited Buyer Representative), e-pro
Roots Realty, 628 SE 58th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97215
office: 503-232-2475 ext. 3, cell: 503-310-2284
jen@rootsrealty.com

Experienced Dedicated Silly Knowledgeable Fun Ethical Professional

Continued from Page 23

Big Problems for Little Man

Baba and Conn found a surrogate 400 miles away named Mary. A seemingly ideal candidate, she soon started having complications. While the doctors could not determine the exact causes, it was clear the baby would be small and not entirely healthy. The doctors warned the mothers that Nicholas—named after Baba's grandfather—could be blind, deaf or mentally incapacitated.

Baba wanted the baby terminated. Conn objected. Conn did not object on a pro-life stance but on what she found to be a mother's love and the belief in Nicholas' spirit.

"I was very concerned about taking away his spirit the way many pro-life zealots might," says Conn. "It doesn't feel like a choice. You have to let [Nicholas'] spirit come through. I did

not ever want to imply that I don't believe in a woman's right to choose, because I absolutely do. I just know, having come from a far-left, lesbian-radical political spectrum, I finally had to get into the shoes of other people who take this issue very seriously. I never thought about the issue, and then I was thrust into the middle of it. It was no longer political; it was spiritual and philosophical. My choice was I [had] to let the spirit come through. That was where Gwen and I really hit the road. She did not feel him. I don't blame her."

As the prognosis for Nicholas went from bad to worse, the conflicts between Baba and Conn grew. People sided with Baba. Conn was alone. Moreover, much of the research into Mary's past proved to be false. She had high blood pressure, one kidney and other maladies, all of which were discovered too far into the pregnancy.

Once Nicholas was born, the complications mounted. To dramatic effect, he lived through several close calls with death, which took its toll on the family—including Conn's relationships with her partner and daughter.

Baba took care of the house. She paid the bills and took care of Gabrielle. Sticking by Nicholas, Conn lived in the strange world of neonatal care. A system of meticulous and experimental sciences conjoined to save the smallest of human beings, the neonatal care unit is a world few people ever see.

What little time Baba and Conn did spend together was intense. Their love was on trial; intimacy was incarcerated.

When Nicholas was finally released to the Baba-Conn home, the family faced a new slew of regiments, procedures and challenges.

Conversely, Conn had a new film on her hands. Her brother Brian Hoven had been shooting the film during Nicholas' tumultuous beginning.

"The first two months while Nicholas' life was in life-or-death jeopardy, I had nothing to do with the filming. My brother and the producer at the time basically chose to continue to shoot

footage. We were shooting a lot of stuff for legal reasons," says Conn. "After Nicholas got out of the woods, my brother and producer sat me down and said, 'You've got to look at this footage.' I started looking at it and realized it was a whole different story. It's going to be more of everyone's story, as more and more of these micro-preemie babies are born. It wasn't like I wanted to expose my private life. This is a story that needs to be told."

A documentary that raises ethical issues about child rearing, the quality of life for any human being, when to let a loved one go (romantically or maternally) and family values, *Little Man* takes the relationship of Baba and Conn at face value and does not get into notions of queer identity politics.

"I think the gay crown owns it as a really positive portrayal of gay family and they're very excited from that standpoint," says Conn. "The words 'gay' and 'lesbian' are never used in the film. This isn't about: 'Aren't we great? We're gay and we're a family.' We're human. We have flaws. We have families. We try our very best, and that's where we should be in our storytelling now. I find straight



"He just exudes the most loving, wonderful energy on the planet," Conn says. "He really is a magical being."

DEBORAH ATTONESE



Nicholas suffers from dysautonomia, which is the body's inability to regulate body temperature, heart rate, breathing and digestion.