



LOTTE STREISINGER

Artist, arts supporter and advocate for peace

Lotte Streisinger was a fierce advocate, a force for the arts, for the crafts and for this community for more than half a century. She died peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Dec. 6 at age 90. A memorial service will be held 5:30 pm Jan. 6 at Temple Beth Israel.

She and her husband, George, and two daughters, Cory and Lisa, came to Eugene in 1960, drawn by scientists at the University of Oregon, where he helped found the famed Institute of Molecular Biology. Already an accomplished potter, Lotte was also deeply involved in the peace movement; she found a way to combine those two passions in the Eugene Peace Information Center sale, the EPIC holiday sale of local crafts started in 1961 and directed by her for about 10 years.

Peace advocacy was especially important to this woman who grew up a Jewish child in Nazi Germany, the hostile home her family left just before the Holocaust, when she was 10 years old. The Seilmans came to America from Munich in 1937.

The EPIC sale in Eugene grew so successful that Lotte and others saw the need for the Saturday Market, a once-a-week event from spring until Christmas outdoors on public property. The market has become a public institution and a powerful outlet for the crafts community she championed. She also was a regular at the Farmers Market, shopping there long after she needed a walker to maneuver the stands.

Yet another of her legacies is the art in public buildings in Eugene and beyond. Lotte administered the program that decided what art would grace the Hult Center, the 1970s group of science buildings on the UO campus, the Eugene airport and the Knight library. Some of her work has a place in the UO's Streisinger Hall, named for her husband, who died in 1984, and she is one of the wonderful "flying people" in the airport.

For years she discussed local art on the popular KLCC radio program *Viz City*. She frequently fired off controversial letters to the editor of the *Register-Guard*.

Her primary craft, her pottery, will continue to be appreciated for years by so many households in this community who display and use it daily both for its beauty and its functionality.

Lotte Streisinger asked that donations in her name be made to NCAP (Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides), P.O. Box 1393, Eugene OR 97440. ■

LOTTE STREISINGER

PHOTO COURTESY THE STREISINGER FAMILY

HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

AARON ORTON

Born in Palmer, Alaska, Aaron Orton moved with his parents to Lane County, Oregon, when he was eight. "My dad met my mother here in the '70s," he says, "in Gowdyville, beyond Lorane. We came back and lived on Spencer Creek Road." Orton went to high school in Crow through junior year, then finished at Churchill High in Eugene. "I joined the Marines Infantry two weeks after graduation," he says. "I was in Iraq from July 2004 to February 2005. I saw things in combat that a 19-year-old shouldn't see." After two more deployments on standby in Kuwait and a "West Pacific float," Orton retired from the Marines as a corporal in 2007 and entered the Exercise and Movement Science Program at Lane Community College. "My mom was into bodybuilding," he explains. "She brought me into the gym in Alaska and here." He worked part-time as a trainer at OZ Fitness during his second year at Lane, got hooked on competitive bodybuilding and, after graduation, opened a gym along with two friends. "My buddies got into CrossFit," he says, "and I kept doing personal training, mostly one-on-one. I trained people for bodybuilding." He built a reputation and, in 2011, opened Genuine Fitness at 1369 W. 6th Avenue in Eugene. Since then, GF has grown from two trainers to nine and twice knocked down walls to expand. "We serve all kinds of clients, young to old," he says. "Our goal is education, trying to assure that everyone pursues realistic goals in a healthy way." In 2015, he married a fellow trainer and bodybuilder, known since as Lyndsi Orton. Their twins Maddox and Nevaeh are one year old.

