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The No Script Society proudly presents

THE 193TH ANNUAL FANCY GOLDEN TROPHY MOVIE AWARDS SHOW

LIVE at the VLT
 March 21 at 7:30 pm
 March 22 at 7:30 pm
 March 23 at 2 pm

"It's going to be Eugene's #1 improvised movie award show!"
 — No Script Free Press

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WOW HALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 15
michael marcagi
 spring 2025 tour
 with special guest ashley kutscher

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
Damien Jurado
 performing Saint Bartlett

TWO NIGHTS! MARCH 20 & 21
 2 Nights - A different classic Jerry Garcia Band Set List each night!
The Garcia Project
 EST. 2010
 FEATURING THE AZULI, COLE, EXPRESS, JIG-IT, JIMMY & BEN PRATHER, MICHAEL MARCAGI

SATURDAY MARCH, 22
PASCUALA ILABACA Y FAUNA
 Telerecord to support the Little Oriskany Cultural Fund

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 ALL AGES
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8TH & LINCOLN
 DOWNTOWN
 EUGENE

HEALTH



CHERYL JEANNERET AND WORKOUT PARTNERS Photos courtesy of Jane Dods

GOAT YOGA – BAA-AAH!

Stretch, relax and get nuzzled by friendly ruminants

BY JANE DODS

At 89, I've pretty much gotten out of life as much as I could hope for — it's been grand! However, I recently experienced a "happening" that was not even a glimmer in my consciousness.

As a volunteer for *Eugene Weekly*, one of my jobs is to proofread the upcoming calendar listings. One of them — goat yoga (huh?) — stopped me cold. I finally decided I had to check this out. So I called a friend and we recently made the pleasant 45-minute drive from Eugene to the No Regrets Flower Farm and Goat Sanctuary in Monroe.

It's set against grassy farm fields with the historic Bellfountain Community Church on the periphery. Lainey Morse, the founder, met us in the parking area and led us to the barn where the yoga took place (in more clement weather it is held outdoors).

Morse told me to keep my notebook under cover as the goats might deem it a "snack." Duly noted.

About a dozen of us entered this dimly lit structure with mats strewn about and a few chairs for those of us with mobility issues. Almost immediately the goats began to check us out — a sniff here, a nuzzle there — lovely!

My friend's yoga routine had to be slightly modified when one of the goats made him/herself comfortable by pressing up against one of her legs which was stretched out during a pose — no problem. She and the goat adapted. As for myself, I had never even done human yoga before, so however my personal goat wanted to alter the routine was fine with me. I was just happy to have



CHERYL JEANNERET AND CLASSMATES

such a warm and willing yoga partner!

All in all, it was a cuddly, therapeutic experience.

In 2015, Morse had a corporate job (with all the attendant pressures). At one point she got really sick and decided to make a change in her life. She consequently rented the farm property, which came with two goats (she now has six).

What a joy it was to her to relax and lay around with them at the end of the day. She soon invited people over for "Goat Happy Hour" to unwind from whatever stresses they might have. She also began "Kids for Kids" — children's birthday parties. One of the human kid's mothers was a yoga instructor, and the rest is viral yoga history.

Word got around. Morse sent an article to *Modern Farmer* about her "goatly" experiences. They loved it and published it in the magazine.

Its popularity was unparalleled with articles in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and, more locally, *The Oregonian* and, of course, *Eugene Weekly*. It's a \$10 million industry. Today there are some 500 goat yoga businesses in the world. And best of all, Morse has rescued goats from meat and dairy farms.

For more information, check out the *What's Happening Calendar* this issue and reservations for a visit can be made at Info@goatyoga.net or 888-992-4628. Find goat yoga at No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Road, Monroe.

BOOKS

'A VERY GAY THING TO DO'

Queer poet Eric Braman debuts Bury Me In Cherry Blossoms, their first poem collection

BY EMILY ROGERS

The flowery pink cover and enchanting title of Eric Braman's premiere romance poetry book, *Bury Me In Cherry Blossoms*, makes you think that you will be reading only dreamy yet bittersweet stanzas about falling in love.

However, once you flip to the first page, Braman strikes readers with violent anecdotes about gasoline, lava rocks and a toothbrush. "I knew I wanted to include a toothbrush even though I hate the topic of the poem, but it's a poem I feel really proud of because I looked at the ugly parts of myself and the ugly parts of the things that surround me and make up who I am," Braman says. "Toothbrush," the first poem of the collection, starts readers on a journey of self-hatred and the woes of being queer.

Braman started their love of poetry secretly in high school. "I didn't tell anyone because it was a very gay thing to do, and I was very much straight," Braman says. It wasn't until college that Braman began sharing their poetry with other people.

Braman went to grad school at University of Oregon for playwriting, but in 2015 they were having a difficult time finding theater opportunities. Out of this struggle came the Dead Parrot Society, a writers support group, which included Braman and a couple of their good friends. "We created the Dead Parrot Society to kill the parrot on our shoulder that was telling us that we're not good enough," Braman says.

Braman's published collection originated over a decade ago from this group. In the poem "A Shot of Whiskey," Braman begins with the Dead Parrot Society prompt "a shot of whiskey."

The poem takes the reader through four poems dedicated to all forms of queer love. "I started the poem off thinking this is about four moments where I had whiskey, and then I realized, 'Oh no, this is about coming out; this is about love,'" Braman says.

Throughout the collection, Braman takes us through their journey of being queer and gender non-binary, through comforting poems like "Chamomile" and heart-wrenching ones like "Learning to Drive."

"Chamomile" follows Braman through