

help a kid

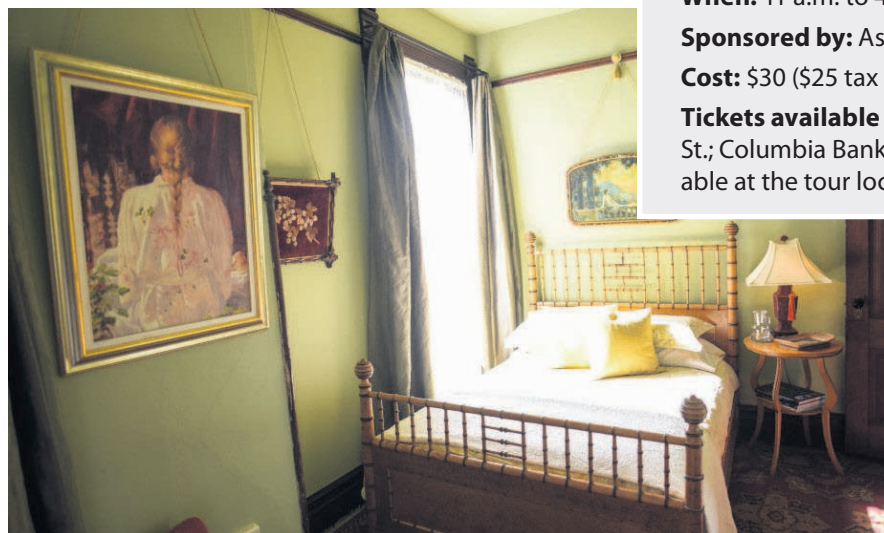
What: Home & Chef Tour

When: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15

Sponsored by: Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific

Cost: \$30 (\$25 tax deductible)

Tickets available at: Holly McHone Jewelers, 1150 Commercial St.; Columbia Bank in Astoria, Warrenton and Seaside; also available at the tour locations in Astoria



PHOTOS BY DANNY MILLER

An upstairs bedroom in Bonnie and Jack Ross's historic Foard home that will be featured on Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific's annual Home & Chef Tour.



Constructed in 1892, the historic Foard home's parlor features a large stained-glass bay window, and all the first-floor rooms have 11-foot ceilings.

On the tour:

The Beck home

1661 Grand Ave.

Food by Fort George Brewery

The Brown home

808 Ninth St.

Food by Bridgewater Bistro

The Cronin home

726 Seventh St.

Food by Fulio's Pastaria, Tuscan Steakhouse & Delicatessen

The Jones home

455 45th St.

Food by Seaside's Beach Burrito

The Ross home

690 Seventh St.

Food by Baked Alaska

Vintage Hardware's Sneak Preview

1162 Marine Drive

Food by Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro and Carruthers

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built by Astorian businessman Martin Foard in 1892. Until it was sold last year, the home had had only two owners.

The original carved woodwork around the doors, an elegant staircase and the ornate Lincrusta-Walton wainscoting in the foyer and dining room — popular in the late 19th century — remain in good condition.

Astoria's prominent families once gathered in the living room, where the Columbia River can be viewed from the home's hilltop location.

When Jack and Bonnie Ross bought the home last December, the first thing they discovered were pocket doors hidden inside the door frames between two of the rooms.

"They had been enclosed for at least 50 years," said Bonnie Ross. "They were just beautiful."

The Rosses, who are enthusiastic historic preservationists, have already

replaced a mantel over the library's fireplace, refinished the mahogany inlaid floors and have begun restoring the butler's pantry.

But the home's original door knobs, bathroom fixtures and windows are still in good shape, Bonnie Ross said.

"The house is pretty exceptional, pretty original ... We feel very blessed to be here," she added.

Other homes on the tour are:

- The Cronin home: Built in 1915 by native Finn Dr. Toivo Forsstrom, who immigrated to Astoria via Shanghai on the SS Dakota in 1905, the 5,000-square-foot house features a rock creek fireplace, Craftsman-style woodwork, large windows with river views and a secret door to a hidden room. The downstairs bathroom is wallpapered with hundreds of Astoria canning labels.

- The Brown-Stichman home: Restored by Mark Brown and Dennis Stichman, the home, built between 1904 and 1908, includes a hemlock floor throughout

the second floor and hall, built-ins with antique leaded-glass doors and a breathtaking view of the Columbia from nearly every room.

- The Beck home: Listed in the National Record of Historic Places, the 4,000-square-foot home was built in 1886 and remains in its original state; only the kitchen has been remodeled.

- The Jones home: From the time it was built in 1895 until 2000, this home remained in the McGregor family. The 5,500-square-foot house sits on one acre above the Alderbrook lagoon.

- Vintage Hardware sneak preview: Originally occupied by the Maki Supply Company in 1946, the building at 1162 Marine Drive also contained agricultural machinery sales, auto repair, and feed and seed businesses.

The Clatsop County chapter of Assistance League works with an \$80,000 annual budget to provide children with clothing. Through its main program, Operation School Bell, 650 kids in elemen-

tary through high school received socks, shoes, underwear, pants, shirts and coats last year.

Another 350 high school girls borrowed donated gowns for homecoming and prom through the league's Cinderella Closet. Thirty local children, who entered the state's foster care system and weren't allowed to bring anything from home, were comforted with duffel bags filled with clothing, books, a blanket and stuffed animal, all supplied by the league.

In addition, the league assists kids whose families can't afford to pay fees for school sports or choir.

The generosity of local store owners who offer deep discounts, as well as the annual tour, which has grown more popular over the past nine years, help the league reach its goals, Davies said.

"We're so blessed in this small community," she added.