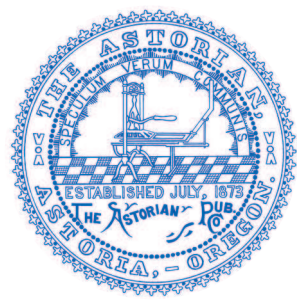


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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OUR VIEW

Each week we recognize those people and organizations in the community deserving of public praise for the good things they do to make the North Coast a better place to live, and also those who should be called out for their actions.



SHOUTOUTS

This week's Shoutouts go to:

- **Volunteer organizations** which conducted free, open-to-the-public Thanksgiving Day dinner events for those in need. **Riverfolk**, the nonprofit recipient of the Safeway Turkey Bucks program, hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner at the Astoria Armory, which donated the facility for the event. In Warrenton, **Thankful Hearts**, a group of local families who have come together to cook and serve the community, conducted A Community Day of Thanks dinner at the Warrenton Community Center.

- The **Cannery Pier Hotel**, which was recently honored by Trivago.com with an award as one of America's best properties based entirely on guest reviews. The travel website's awards recognize the 10 best hotels in America in four different categories. The Cannery Pier Hotel was ranked No. 6 of the best 5-star hotels in the country. The list was published in mid-November by Trivago.com and its digital magazine Room5. The Langham Hotel in Chicago is the best 5-Star hotel, according to guests' online reviews. In the 4-star category, The Oxford Hotel in Bend was ranked No. 8, and was the only other Oregon hotel to receive recognition in any of the categories.

- **Columbia Memorial Hospital nurse Kendra Gohl**, who was honored with a Nurse of the Year Award by the March of Dimes. It marked the second consecutive year a CMH nurse received the honor. Gohl, a certified infection preventionist, was named the 2016 Small Hospital Nurse of the Year in Oregon and Southwest Washington during an award ceremony earlier this month in Portland. In 2015, Laura Brown was named Nurse of the Year for Women's Health.

- **Clatsop County Surveyor Vance Swenson**, who was named Surveyor of the Year for 2016 by the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors, a state-wide professional group. Swenson was also picked to join the group's board of directors. The professional organization promotes ethical practices in both public works professions and provides for the exchange of ideas between county engineers and surveyors from around the state. Swenson joined the county Public Works Department in 2003 was named county surveyor in 2011. The county surveyor maintains all survey records for the county, and works with private surveyors and the public to provide access to survey data.

- The annual **Laundry Love** event, which was conducted at the **Seaside Laundromat**. The event was sponsored by **At the Water's Gate** and helped families in need by paying for two loads of laundry, per family, with no strings attached. Winter clothing donations were also given to those in need. Shirley Smith-Yates, one of the organizers of the event, said it "was the largest one we have ever had. The participants started showing up an hour early and we ended up using all our funding within two hours. We had 25-30 families represented at Laundry Love and we gave away mounds of clothes."

- **Dutch Bros. Coffee**, which recently conducted its "Buck for Kids Day" that raised \$1,566 to benefit the Astoria Food for Kids Program. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul—St. Mary Star of the Sea Conference has operated the program in the Astoria School District for children in grades K-8 during the past four years. The program provides weekend backpacks to help stop hunger for local students, with a typical backpack containing a breakfast, lunch and snacks for each day of the weekend for children in the program. Last school year the program provided 1,411 food backpacks and it is anticipated that 1,500 will be sent home this school year.



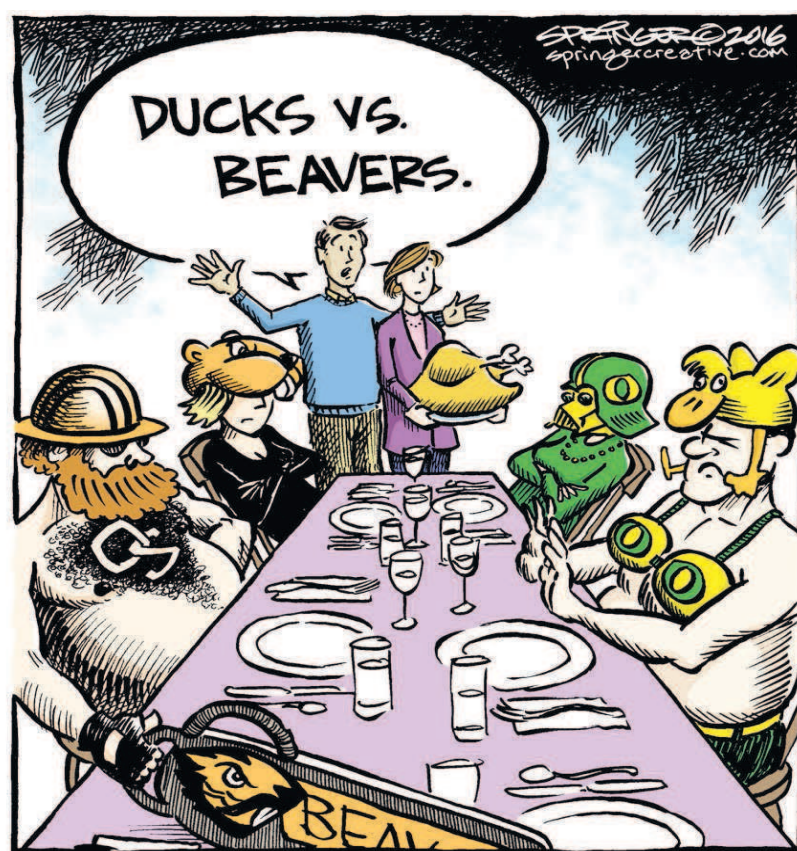
CALLOUTS

This week's Callouts go to:

- **Shoppers who don't think of shopping local first** now that the holiday shopping season is officially underway. While it's understandable to shop out of town when an item can't be found locally, and it's convenient to shop online, shopping out of town or at dot com behemoths like Amazon doesn't contribute to the health of our local economy or our coastal communities.

Suggestions?

Do you have a Shoutout or Callout you think we should know about? Let us know at news@dailyastorian.com and we'll make sure to take a look.



SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Ursula K. Le Guin's prophetic vision

Last year The New Yorker zeroed in on the natural hazards of our coast in Kathryn Schulz's "The earthquake that will devastate the Pacific Northwest."

Maybe it is appropriate that the magazine, in their Oct. 17 issue, now focuses not on a force of nature, but a voice for humanity. "The Fantastic Ursula K. Le Guin" by Lisa Phillips offers an intimate portrayal of one of the only living authors — with Philip Roth — in the Library of America series.



Le Guin first enchanted readers in the 1960s

and never stopped. Among the most honored of America's authors, she lives in Portland and Cannon Beach.

"We believe she is one of America's finest authors and a bold and honest voice in the entire field of literature," Cannon Beach Book Co.'s co-owner Maureen Dooley-Sroufe said this week.

A request for Ursula K. LeGuin's writing results in a "walking tour" of the store.

"We start in science-fiction/fantasy, head over to children's books, on to poetry, then to essays and finally Pacific Northwest Regional books," Dooley-Sroufe said. "Ursula K. Le Guin is the only author whose books we feature in this way — it reflects the great diversity and breadth of her work."

"She is a part-time resident of Cannon Beach, and we delight in knowing that she may be writing, relaxing or strolling to the beach right now," Dooley-Sroufe added.

Watt Childress, co-owner of Jupiter's Rare & Used Books, praised Le Guin in an interview with the Cannon Beach Gazette.

Le Guin's work, Childress said, "rises to the level of epic myth that burrows deeply into our consciousness. ... She speaks from a place and a position that commands respect."

Le Guin's books are magical, not necessarily cheerful hocus-pocus, but with cloudy edges teased into being by a prankish wizard.

In "Unlocking the Air," the author warns: "There is no 'after' in 'happily ever after.'"

But "after" is what Le Guin pursues, our ability to reinvent, recreate ourselves: "We can tell the story over, we can tell the story till we get it right."

Imagining the future

In The New Yorker's profile, Phillips draws a biographical arc describing a young Le Guin as an outsider uncomfortable with the cultural cliques of the 1950s and '60s, "never at home with establishments of any kind."

As a young writer, Le Guin acutely felt the closed society of both literary and male-dominated elites, each to stymie her and then shape her own genre-defining path.

A frustrating period of rejections gave way to a venture into a new genre.

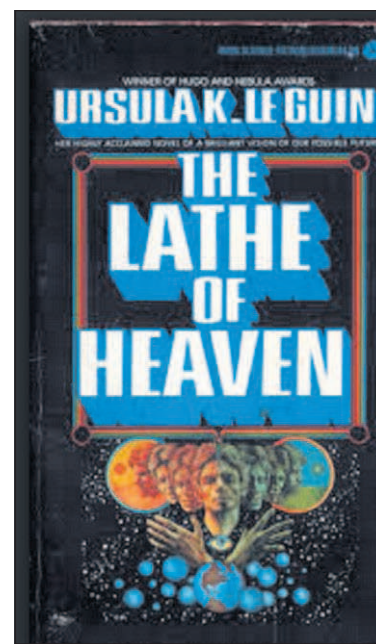
"I just didn't know what to do with my stuff until I stumbled into science fiction and fantasy," Le Guin tells Phillips. "And then, of course, they knew what to do with it."

The author's success was immediate. Science fiction opened Le Guin up to writing not only about aliens, but from "alien" points of



Jack Liu/Submitted Photo

Ursula Le Guin in November 2013 at the University of Oregon Campus.



Submitted Photo

One of Le Guin's most popular sci-fi novels.

view: "composing the political manifesto of an ant, wondering what it would be like if humans had the seasonal sexuality of birds, imagining love in a society in which a marriage involves four people."

The author, through her characters was questioning and redefining the modern gender experience.

At home in Oregon

Le Guin slings wicked puns, to wit, her short story title "Ether, OR: For the Narrative Americans."

The story, like a significant part of her work, pays homage to the state where her great-grandfather arrived from California in 1873.

And who could be more of an archetypal Oregonian superhero than George Orr, the man who can stop an earthquake, in "The Lathe of Heaven?"

When on the coast, Le Guin tells The New Yorker, she "does the stupid, ordinary stuff that has to be done that you can't let go." That also includes participation in local literary activities, including the 2013 program "Get Lit at the Beach."

For a glimpse behind the front door, visit Le Guin's blog, where she provides rants, cat photos, poetry, even rules of the game "Fibble," where "the only words allowed are words that (so far as anybody there knows) do not exist."

"Doing fine but not doing very much," Le Guin posted in September.

A late October health update (Le Guin suffers from a congenital heart murmur that landed her in the hospital): "Can't hang from branches yet, but am real good at moving slow w l y ..."

A passionate voice

We don't often think of courage as a literary trait — Le Guin reminds us otherwise.

"The measure of a civilization may be the individual's ability to speak the truth," Le Guin proclaimed in the 1976 essay "Language of the Night."

Le Guin encourages us to be masters of our own destiny, like Orr, whose dreams can alter reality.

Le Guin celebrates the power of imagination and the individual's freedom to express it.

"Don't worry about control! Freedom is what you're working toward!" she writes.

The unconscious mind is "the wellspring of health, imagination, creativity," to be expressed freely and without restraint.

The author's voice resonated in a passionate speech at the 2014 National Book Awards: "Right now, I think we need writers who know the difference between production of a market commodity and the practice of an art," Le Guin said. "We'll need writers who can remember freedom — poets, visionaries — realists of a larger reality."

In an age of self-censorship and media-bashing from right and left, Le Guin provides inspiration for the creative voice in all of us.

"We believe she is one of America's finest authors and a bold and honest voice in the entire field of literature," Dooley-Sroufe said. "Her support of authors, readers and the art of creative writing is legendary."

Sometimes politics jump from abstraction to "larger reality" in a jolting manner. Le Guin, like her characters, seems to possess the power to conjure a reality eerily similar to our own.

I wonder if I'm the only one reflecting on this chilling opening to Le Guin's "Dispossessed":

"There was a wall," Le Guin writes. "It did not look important. ... But the idea was real. It was important. For seven generations there had been nothing in the world more important than that wall. Like all walls it was ambiguous, two-faced. What was inside it and what was outside it depended upon which side of it you were on."

In the most highly charged political atmosphere in history, Le Guin offers a steady vision into our world — internal and external — as timely as when she first put pen to page.

R.J. Marx is *The Daily Astorian's* South County reporter and editor of the *Seaside Signal* and *Cannon Beach Gazette*.