

DOUG ❄️ RICH

DWIGHT CASWELL PHOTO

Doug Rich, keeping active

Doug Rich was an athlete through college, then a campus minister and, later, a college professor.

In midlife he answered another call, to the ministry. He became pastor of a church in New Mexico, where he visited the cowboys and coal miners in his congregation with his “motorcycle ministry.” Rich and his wife, Jeanne, later moved to a church in Warrenton.

Finally retired at 79, he rides his Honda 800, but finds few companions his age to share his riding, backpacking and fly fishing. That he remains active is “a wonderful gift,” he said, “and I’m very grateful.” He likes to get outdoors as much as possible, “but now it takes discipline. You have to push yourself.”

He says this standing in a garage filled with barbells, boats and bicycles, waiting for a change in the weather. So if you see a large man of a certain age on a motorcycle, fishing rod strapped to his back, odds are that’s Doug Rich, heading for the nearest trout stream.



COURTESY DOUG RICH

A young Doug Rich

BERENIECE ❄️ JONES-CENTENO

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Bereniece Jones-Centeno

Bereniece Jones-Centeno’s father and brothers were a gospel group, but little sister wasn’t included. “Adult rebellion” was what she laughingly calls her decision to make a career of music.

“I love the art form,” she said, “the power of the human voice, and the power of communication when somebody sings.”

She had her first opera role at 19, and after singing professionally for 20 years Jones-Centeno found herself with the Eugene Opera Company, and a performing fellow at the university.

A position as managing director of the Astoria Music Festival brought her to Clatsop County, where she later became creative director at the Liberty Theatre. Somehow Jones-Centeno also managed to co-found the Cascadia Concert Opera Company, which has moved to Astoria.

In 2018 she looks forward to a successful and innovative Liberty season, and to “bringing Cascadia to fruition in 2018,” when they will perform their first commissioned work.



COURTESY BERENIECE JONES-CENTENO

A young Bereniece Jones-Centeno

JESSAMYN ❄️ GRACE


DWIGHT CASWELL PHOTO

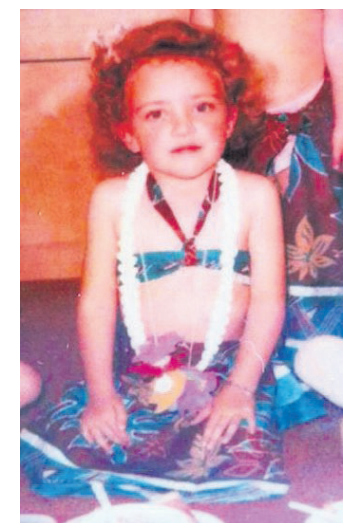
Jessamyn Grace

Jessamyn Grace is both executive director and belly dance instructor at the nonprofit Astoria Arts & Movement Center, located in Astoria’s Odd Fellows building. The year 2017 was, she said, “one of the most challenging years of my life.”

It was feared that the building would be purchased and altered by new owners, and Grace describes 2017 as a “year of focus without distraction, of community voice and action, of fighting for something I care about in the best way I knew how, the AAMC.”

With 2018, Grace said, she has been “given the opportunity to look ahead with hope and excitement at the ways I wish to strengthen the nonprofit organization through more classes and additional community involvement.”

Grace looks back on a challenging year and said, “I collect, with reverence, what I’ve learned and hold it close in order to step into the New Year with courage and grace.” 



COURTESY JESSAMYN GRACE

A young Jessamyn Grace at a luau