

BEST BARBERSHOP

ELEVENTH STREET BARBER

ASTORIA



DWIGHT CASWELL PHOTO

Eleventh Street Barber in Astoria won Best Barbershop in the 2017 Readers' Choice contest.

Runner-up: Frank's Barber Shop, Astoria
Honorable mention: Oly's Barber Shop, Astoria

By DWIGHT CASWELL

The best barbershop, according to Coast Weekend readers, is Eleventh Street Barber, located next to Cargo at 250 Eleventh Street (of course) in Astoria.

Owner Sarah Jane Bardy has been a barber for 10 years and has owned the shop for five. The shop has six barbers. "Every year we've been here," Bardy said, "we've added another barber."

Which speaks well for the quality of haircut you can expect. "We try to be good to our customers, and they're good to us," Bardy said. "Our growth just happened; it was all word of mouth. Much of that popular support comes from the military,



Sarah Jane Bardy, owner of Eleventh Street Barber

for whom there are discounts."

This rapid success led to a problem for Eleventh Street Barber. "It's a good problem to have, but we've solved it," Bardy said. That would be waits up to 90 minutes.

The solution was three-part. First, serve complimentary Pabst Blue Ribbon beer to those over 21 while they wait. (Under 21? You get a lollipop.) Second, a sign-in board. Scrawl your name on the board, staff will tell you how long the wait will be, and you can spend the

time visiting local businesses and pubs (if Pabst isn't your thing). Third, make sure there are five barbers on duty during the busiest days, Friday and Saturday. In fact, on those days there are more barbers in Eleventh Street than in the rest of Astoria combined.

One of the barbers, Gail Barella, explained how she came to be at Eleventh Street Barber. "I went clam digging with my husband, and we thought it would be awesome to live at the beach," she said. "Then I saw this place and I knew I wanted to work here, and Sarah gave me the opportunity."

Barella's enthusiasm and that of the other barbers is contagious. When you walk in, it is apparent that customers and barbers are having a good time. It's not just the haircutting — they like hanging out at Eleventh Street Barber. 

BEST HAIR SALON

SALON BOHEME

ASTORIA

Runner-up: Hygge Hair Company, Astoria
Honorable mention: Belissima Salon and Boutique, Astoria

By DWIGHT CASWELL

Salon Boheme (1055 Marine Drive) in Astoria is next door to LightBox Photographic Gallery and around the corner from Imogen Gallery. Those galleries exhibit paintings and photography; Salon Boheme is a gallery of fine hairstyling. It is also our readers' choice for Best Hair Salon.

Kallie Linder's aunt was a hairdresser, and she recalls visiting the salon. "I loved the smell, the sound, and the people." By age 11 she had decided to be a hairdresser, too, and to own a salon. "I started right out of high school," she said.

Linder has been a hairdresser since 1995, and she has owned Salon Boheme for more than 12 years. "I was tired of the status quo," she said. "It was gossip. It wasn't taken seriously. But it's a real career; you can make a difference. I wanted to empower other hairdressers."

There are now 11 empowered women working in the spacious, high-ceilinged salon, and the ambience at Salon Boheme is unique. "I have been told by clients that they feel safe here, that they can talk here, and they know we don't gossip," she said.

Part of the empowerment is Linder's belief that "education is the key."



DWIGHT CASWELL PHOTO

Kallie Linder, owner of Salon Boheme, with client Leah Dalton

"We take classes in business, hair color, hair cutting, nails, lash extension, facial, aromatherapy, massage and ethics."

Linder said the salon is very community-orientated: "We like to do things in the community." Those things include food drives, toy drives and coat drives. The hairdressers of Salon Boheme fit wigs for cancer patients in cooperation with Columbia Memorial Hospital; they cut hair at Homeless Connect and adopt a family at Christmas.

The dream of an 11-year-old girl has become not only a successful business, but a part of the community and a resource for women, and those they serve have shown their enthusiasm with this award. 



COLIN MURPHEY PHOTO

Last year, Riki Irie agreed to have her head shaved if a fundraising goal was met for a local infant diagnosed with brain cancer. In this photo she sees her shaved head for the first time at Salon Boheme in Astoria as supporters look on behind her.

ASTORIA ELKS LODGE #180

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Friday, February 16th 6:00pm

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Dinner \$8 ~ Bingo \$12 & up

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