

Phase 2 ahead at the Bob Chisholm Center

'THE BOB'
DARREN GOOCH



R.J. Marx

Bob Chisholm Center in Seaside serves lunch to local residents.

It's hard for me to believe that summer has come so quickly to a close here on the north coast. As we head into the autumn season with its crisp, cool mornings and falling leaves, I can't help but wonder where the time has gone.

It seems like just a couple of months ago we were welcoming a new year, yet we are only a few months away from ushering in another one.

Just a couple of weeks ago, our Community Center Commission members hosted a special dinner for a handful of the Main Hall Refresh Project donors, City staff,

City Council members, and contractors who helped work on the project. The commissioners served homemade lasagna and the dinner was a great success.

Commission Chair, Kristin Kabanuk took special care to

thank each of the contributors in her address and also spoke about some of the exciting things that are yet to come here at the center. One of those things is the donor recognition tree that has been recently commissioned with

local artist Jeremy Furnish. Jeremy is designing the body of the tree from a black walnut slab and adding wire branches. The wire branches will be capped with laser cut bronze leaves and each leaf engraved with our donors' names. We are hoping to have the tree in place by the end of November.

Another exciting development is the donation of a wood slab by High Life Adventures LLC, which will become a countertop at our serving counter in the hall. This was originally part of the project scope, but had to be cut from the plans to keep our project within its budget. Having the folks at High Life step up to donate the wood slab is an absolutely amazing way to cap off the Main Hall Refresh Project.

Looking ahead, our commission members are already working on planning for a Phase II project and what that might entail. I went through an exercise with the commissioners several months ago, where we looked at building needs. One item that seemed to come up again and again was the current stucco siding, which local painter Randy Anderson has offered to paint for free this year as a donation back to his community.

I am truly excited to see the final pieces of this project fall into place and I am continuously amazed by the generosity of our community members. As we settle in for the shorter, chillier days ahead, it's time to start putting together a list of items to be thankful for and my list starts with all of you!

Every month, The Bob will bring you information on current events and items of interest here at the center. See you next month!

When an aggressive dog bites, understanding the cause

I have, in other essays, bemoaned the bizarre expectations of us humans that our dogs should somehow understand and follow our human rules and mores as if they were human. Especially given how the human species rails against anthropomorphism — e.g., “dogs are not children!” is a common chide — you'd think we'd be more open to respecting the differences between dogs and humans.

In “The Culture Clash,” renowned dog training expert and educator Jean Donaldson presents the plight of our companion canines, and our own plight. The first edition of her book was released in 1996 and though it is still popular, the underlying problem she presents in it persists. We haven't properly adjusted for thumbliness.

Since they don't have texting — no thumbs! — dogs settle disputes with a variety of threat displays and sometimes biting. In the dog world, these disputes are often minor and soon forgotten. We humans take threats and physical altercations seriously. Perhaps we partake in projection. The result, says Donaldson: “There is incredible stigma attached to dogs that bite, as though they have character flaws and are qualitatively dif-

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ferent from dogs who have never bitten. They are not. There are not two kinds of dogs: nice dogs who would never bite and less nice dogs who do. Biting is natural, normal dog behavior.”

Don't panic. This does not mean dogs are readying to bite you. It simply means that dogs have limited options for protecting themselves from threats. No thumbs means no tool use — no self-defense weapon-carrying dogs — and being captive animals means no ability to flee from threats. They are at our mercy. As I've covered previously, and as Donaldson's book explains, that means we who are responsible for dogs must properly breed, socialize, manage, handle, train, desensitize, care for, and protect them from feeling and being threatened so that they don't have to protect themselves.

Explaining how our dogs may be set up for doom if we expect them to protect us from danger yet not be dangerous to us — attacking robbers and muggers but not

our family or friends—Donaldson suggests how our dog mythology disadvantages our dogs: “The mythical dog is one who can tell the good guys from the bad guys,” explaining what would be obvious, both in fact and in consequence, once we stopped to analyze it. “Dogs are unaware that

imals, says Donaldson, if we are going to hold them to a set of standards that is absurd and abnormal for the species, it is our responsibility to ensure they are gifted the skills and support needed to succeed.

There's confusion about dog “bites” and “maulings”; this arti-

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they've been adopted into a culture where biting is considered a betrayal of trust and a capital offense. Incredibly little is actively, consciously done to reduce the probability of biting.” By this she means aggression prevention training, which a good R+ trainer/certified canine behavior consultant can provide. This is important, Donaldson explains, because we hold “an absurd ideal” that there should be “no bites, ever.” Since dogs are animals—albeit really great animals—and biting is normal for ani-

cle is not meant to address serious occurrences where death or mutilation have resulted. Donaldson distinguishes between those versus bites that are more akin to “kitchen injury” level bites or less, explaining that often “no effort is made to distinguish dogs involved in fatal and near fatal maulings from kitchen injury level biters. In human terms, this is exactly akin to lumping sharp words with felony assault and murder.” I know some of you have been through great emotional trauma related to this

topic. I've been through it in the past, and I understand that this last point may be a lot for some people to hear. But please stay with me if you are a dog lover.

I suppose I am lucky that my dogs are meek and gentle. I am also ever-cautious to protect them from situations that might put them at risk of having to defend themselves from a charging dog or an aggressive person — or one who doesn't understand dog behavior and subtle provocations. But there are no guarantees. I suspect this might be why Donaldson decided to go brave or go home in her book, hoping to increase understanding and motivation in dog lovers all over the world, so that we might improve our skills and therefore our capacity to protect our beloved best-friend species:

“Aggressive behavior does not fracture relationships in dog society,” she writes. “The problem is that aggression often changes things a great deal in dog-human relationships. We routinely execute dogs who bite. That's quite the culture clash. ... I say execute rather than euthanize because a biting dog is not suffering and does not need or want a merciful death. He is killed because of transgressions he has committed against humans. That's what an execution is for.”

HAPPENINGS IN BRIEF

Prayer conference coming to North Coast Oct. 6–8

A conference to ignite prayer and unity among Christians in Oregon is happening from Oct. 6 to Oct. 8 in Rockaway on the North Coast. Christians interested in unified prayer for our nation are encouraged to attend as much of this three day event as possible.

The conference, called “Oregon Igniting His Love” will take place in Rockaway at the Twin Rocks Friends Camp. It is being organized by Pray Oregon, the National Day of Prayer in Oregon, and facilitated by the Tillamook County Wide Prayer Team in a supportive roll. Registration will be accepted at the door or online at <http://prayoregon.brushfire.com>.

The Harbor wins grants

The Harbor received grants from Seaside, Astoria and Cannon Beach. Combined, these cities award \$30,800 annually to support The Harbor's work throughout Clatsop County, including funds for D/SART, the after-hours crisis response team, which sends trained advocates to local hospitals and police stations when called on by law enforcement and hospital staff.

D/SART is shorthand for domestic/sexual assault response team: a team of trained people drawn from domestic and sexual assault advocacy, medical personnel and law enforcement personnel.

The SART model is considered best practice in sexual assault response by the Justice Department and is the standard for responding to adult and adolescent victims of sexual assault. In Clatsop County, law enforcement or medical personnel alert The Harbor via the crisis line whenever there is an emergency situation involving domestic violence or sexual assault.



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“Humility That Overcomes The World”

Saturday - October 12, 2019 - 1:00pm
Astoria Library Flag Room
450 10th Street

A free talk given by Mark McCurties, C.S.
A member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship, The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts



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