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Second Nature: The Story of a Naturalist's Garden by Susie White (Saraband, 2024)...12

Southside Workshops bring innovative approaches to facing challenges...14

Teens Against Abuse Inspires Prevention Education and Community Awareness...20

**For Audrey and Adam Schwind,
Bellingham was where our
hearts were**

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What moves you?

Southside Living

Serving the neighborhoods of Chuckanut Drive, Edgemoor, Fairhaven and South Hill

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Dear Residents,

Welcome to the April edition of *Southside Living* magazine. In this fast moving, often turbulent world that we live in, it's nice to get the opportunity to reflect on the many positives available to us. Our Social Alchemy story on page 14 is a celebration of this. I fondly remember being in the wonderful ancient town of Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina with my son Sidney two years ago. Walking through the magical market he noticed two locals were short of money to buy ice cream from a vendor and, without a second thought, he gladly bought their ice creams for them. The look of gratitude on their faces (and the vendor's!) was priceless and a charming 'micro-nicety' that we all enjoyed. Pay it forward. We continue the Best Version Media mantra of 'Bringing People Together' with our monthly food blog, Cuisine du Monde! Hosted each month by my good friends Rogan Jones and Renee Marr, this month Hudson Jacobs, a good friend of Sidney's, treats us to the wonderful food from Trinidad. This is a good example of how publishing *Southside Living* is not only great fun each month but how the community comes together to help us put the book together.

Thank you as always for your support as readers and for the support of our sponsors.

Until next month.

David Pillinger

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The Cowgill Cottage at 13th & Harris

By Jeff Jewell

Edgar L. Cowgill, arriving from Tacoma in 1888, was a founding partner in the Fairhaven Land Co. He married Lillie Wasmer, whose sister, Bertha, was married to “Dirty Dan” Harris, founder of Fairhaven. The Cowgills had a cottage, seen here, built on the NE corner of 13th and Harris in 1889. Edgar envisioned a grand opera house for the “Magic City,” leading him to move his cottage in March 1891 to provide a site for the future theater. It’s a shame there are no photos of the house’s journey up the steep slopes of “Nob Hill” to 1705 Knox Ave. Picture horse teams pulling the structure on log rollers. Twenty-five years later, to make way for a new residence, the Cowgill cottage was moved yet again, landing at 2614 Donovan Ave. It’s still there, becoming the Common House for Bellingham Cohousing in 1997. Meanwhile, back at the 13th and Harris site in 1891, a 9-foot-deep basement was dug for the opera house. But that’s as far as the wished-for theater ever got. The half-block hole, sprouting



Photographer unknown, Whatcom Museum 1996.10.3819

saplings and bramble, remained until 1971, when the pit was filled for a parking lot. A brand-new apartment building at 1305 Harris Ave., which replaced the parking lot, is named Opera House.



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For Audrey and Adam Schwind, Bellingham was where our hearts were

By Tony Mocerì

Sometimes in life, you feel like going home. For Audrey and Adam Schwind, that meant returning to Bellingham to raise their family. For Adam, it was returning to the place where he grew up, and for Audrey, it was the adopted home she had fallen in love with while attending Western Washington University. “We asked ourselves, where do we want our kids to grow up for the next fifteen years and be in school and decided that Bellingham was where our hearts were. We’re super glad to be back here,” said Audrey.

The couple returned to the area with the goal of connecting deeply with the community both socially and through their work. Adam is a hospitalist with Family Care Network, and Audrey owns and operates Music Together Fairhaven, a pre-school family music program for children and their caregivers. Both occupations allow for constant interaction with the community they are so excited to be back living amongst.

The couple’s journey after undergrad saw them moving about the western states while they completed their educational goals. While Adam focused on medical school, Audrey focused on studying exercise science. Medical school involved Arizona, Oregon, and Idaho. While in Portland, while her partner worked his way through medical school, Audrey got the opportunity to coach the sport she



Photography by Mark Turner

Continued on page 6



loved and excelled in at WWU, rowing.

During Audrey's time at Western, she and her rowing teammates had incredible success. They won the national championship four times while she was a part of the program, and she was in the varsity eight boat for three of the championships. In 2009, she was the captain of the national

championship team. "Rowing is a really unique sport because there's not just one athlete that makes the team. It's really the combined effort of everyone to make it a success. We had a really awesome group of athletes who were able to work together really well, which ultimately ended up taking it to the highest level, which was really,

really gratifying," said Audrey.

While Audrey is quick to credit her teammates, her individual contributions did not go unnoticed by those paying attention. She was WWU athlete of the year, and in 2010, she was honored as one of the top thirty women of the year for the NCAA. She was also in Sports

Illustrated, got to throw out the first pitch at a Mariners game, and a couple of years ago, was inducted into WWU's athletics hall of fame.

Transitioning from athlete to coach was in line with Audrey's personality and interests, as she had gone to undergrad for education. She was a Division Three coach at Lewis and Clark College before getting the opportunity to move over to University of Portland, where she would not only be coaching Division One women's rowing but would also be helping to start their Division One program. This was an incredible experience for Audrey and one that would help inform her master's thesis.

Their next move sent the couple to Boise, where Adam would do his residency. Audrey would work to complete her masters of science in kinesiology at Boise State, doing her thesis on understanding why college women rowers choose to persist in the sport of rowing. As they settled into Boise, they started their family, having their first child. This led them to reimagining what the next chapter of life would look like. They knew they wanted to be in a situation where Audrey would have the flexibility to be with the kids while having an occupation that was fulfilling. Music had always been a part of Audrey and her sister's lives. Her sister had learned about Music Together classes and encouraged Audrey to pursue it with her. Having been in the choir throughout childhood and again at WWU, she decided it was at least worth a look.

After going through the training, Audrey started her own center in Boise and, with her six-month year-old daughter in tow, she grew the business to close to one hundred families coming to classes a week.



The ability to be with her child, being in education, and doing it all through music made Audrey feel like she had found her

thing. With all the success with her business and enjoying life in Boise, it was a big decision for them to move their family to Bellingham, but it was one that felt right.

When planning the move, Audrey's mind flashed back to her interval training running up Taylor Hill. While many would shudder at the thought of that workout, what she remembered was running past Lowell Elementary and knew that was

where she wanted her kids to go to school. With determination, they tackled the challenging task of finding a home on South Hill, and with luck, it came to fruition. Their Daughter Eloise is currently in kindergarten at Lowell, and their son Emile will be there in a couple of years after he wraps up his time in preschool at Bayside Co-op Preschool and going to Music Together with his mom.

While raising a family and starting a business is hard work, Audrey, with the support of Adam, is excited to do it. She is currently conducting classes at Firehouse and BAAY a couple of days a week with mixed-age classes ranging from 0 to 5. There are only twelve families in a regular class, and having just started in September, the business already has a waitlist. She has

Continued on page 8

Mark Turner photographs families and individuals on location and in the studio.



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also done free classes at the library, where over 100 people came. “The people of Bellingham are really eager and excited to embrace new opportunities for making music with their children, and Music Together Fairhaven has been a really good fit,” said Audrey. To learn more about Music Together Fairhaven, you can visit www.musictogetherfairhaven.com. *SL*



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