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Our Community in Action

Nina Kramer is reading cheerleader

Maybe it's her quirky sense of humor or her lack of inhibition when it comes to making up silly songs and twirling with scarves, surrounded by a roomful of giggling toddlers. But few folks are as popular with Sabin children and their parents as Nina Kramer, Albina Library's children's librarian.

Her four story-time sessions each week are often standing-room-only. Afterwards, grateful parents appreciate Kramer's thoughtful suggestions for age-appropriate and topic-specific books that are sure to interest their young readers and listeners.

"Ms. Nina has been such a big part of both my daughters' success in reading, confidence in research, and overall joy of being a part of the Sabin community," says parent Sara Lockman, who has taken her two daughters, now 5 and 7, to the library and to story times since they were babies. "Now we see Ms. Nina in Sabin School classrooms, which has been great for the kids' transition into their school years. She adds value to our school."



Nina Kramer, Albina Library's children's librarian, reads an engrossing story during Wednesday Toddler Story Time.

For her part, Kramer thinks she has the ideal job. "The kids are great and the parents are great," she says. When she's not in the library, she's usually making visits to local schools, including Sabin, where she conducts "glorified big-kid" story times and works with teachers to compile

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Library begins Summer Reading Program

Albina Library's Summer Reading Program for children and teens kicks off June 13 and runs through Aug. 31. To sign up, stop by the library, which is just north of Whole Foods Market at Northeast 15th Avenue and Fremont Street. Participation is free.

Children can spend time reading, listening to books or completing suggested activities, then marking spaces on game boards. When participants reach one of the prize markers on the game board, they can visit the library to receive a reward. Rewards include books, passes for free activities, and food coupons at local restaurants.

"We don't have a reading list, but if you need ideas, come talk to me," invites Albina Children's Librarian Nina Kramer. "It's important to keep reading during the

summer, because if you don't, you slide. And then when you start school in the fall, you've fallen behind."

Students entering sixth grade or older, as well as adults, can apply to become a Summer Reading Volunteer. Applicants go through an interview and training process. Those selected may register people for the game, award prizes, talk with children about the books they have read, help with events and keep records.

To learn more about the Summer Reading Program or how to become a Summer Reading Volunteer visit <https://multcolib.org/library-location/albina> and type in "Summer Reading Program" in the search box at the top right of the page.

**2014 SCA
MEETING SCHEDULE**

Board meetings are open to all and are held from 7-9 p.m. on the second Monday of the month (except in July, August and December) at Whole Foods' upstairs conference room, Northeast 15th and Fremont.

June 9
September 8
October 13

EVENTS CALENDAR

WWW.SABINPDX.ORG
FOR SELECT INFORMATION ON
SABIN EVENTS

Sabin Orchard Work & Learn Party
Sunday, June 15, 2 – 4 p.m.
NE Mason between 18th and 19th

Sabin Orchard Work & Learn Party
Sunday, July 20, 2 – 4 p.m.
NE Mason between 18th and 19th

Sabin Community Picnic
Tuesday, Aug. 5, 5:30 p.m.
Sabin School playing field

**Sabin Community
Association**



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This newsletter is produced with support from Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods and Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

— Librarian engages her young readers

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book lists that coordinate with classroom curriculum.

"I'm always looking for good nonfiction books and I try to give the children a breadth of experience," Kramer explains. "I try to introduce them to things that will make them lifelong readers. I'm the cheerleader for reading." Unfortunately, not all school-age children have had caregivers who made reading a priority.

"I see a lot of kids who've never been to the library, never been to a story time," she adds. "You definitely can tell they have never been read to by anyone in their household. It's good to see those children find a book that resonates."

Being a children's librarian is Kramer's second career. For 17 years she was a transportation planner at Metro, modeling the region's long-range transportation system. Once her two sons entered school, she began volunteering in their classrooms and in the library. Kramer realized she wanted to work with children, so she returned to school to earn a master's degree in library science.

Ten years ago, she became Albina's children's librarian, and her family moved to the Sabin neighborhood. Her husband, also a librarian, works at Multnomah County Library's Capitol Hill branch. Today, one son attends college and the other is a college graduate.

Anyone who has known Kramer for a while realizes she's a fan of Keen sandals. Her collection includes pink, purple, bright green, dark teal and brown. During colder months, she just adds socks. What many people don't know is

she's passionate about sailing and will read any book about boats. She and her husband keep their sailboat on the Columbia River and have taken it to the San Juans and to Vancouver Island.

When you meet her, you're in for a treat. For more information about Albina Library's story times for children, stop by the library or search online for "Albina Library" and click on "Events Schedule."

— Susan Goracke

Thank you, deliverers

Three-year-old Harriet Hoyt-McBeth has been helping deliver Sabin Community Association newsletters for almost two of the past three


and a half years that her parents, Steve and Mandi Hoyt-McBeth, have been deliverers. Says proud Dad Steve, "As she's gotten older, she's become more actively involved: Now she rolls up the paper and sticks it in the door handle herself. She loves doing it."

He adds, "As a father, it's a great opportunity to spend meaningful time with my daughter and enjoy the neighborhood...I feel delivering the newsletter together instills in Harriet the ethic of participating in her community."

The SCA Board is grateful to all the families and individuals who volunteer several hours each month to ensure newsletters reach every Sabin home and business.



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Volunteers needed for Fremont project

Construction should begin soon on building a pedestrian crosswalk and storm-water abatement bioswales on Northeast Fremont at Ninth Avenue, says Trent Thelen, a Sabin resident who has been coordinating the Fremont Green Street Project with the City of Portland for several years.

According to Thelen, Civilworks NW has been awarded the project as general contractor, and contracts are in the process of being signed. After that, the city can issue permits for construction, which is expected to take about three weeks. Neighborhood volunteers will be needed to install plant material, and then Portland Bureau of Transportation will install crosswalk and possible bike-crossing markings.

Although no date for planting has yet been set, anyone who could volunteer to

help with planting is asked to contact SCA President Clay Veka at clayveka@gmail.com or at 503-961-3702 to be put on the volunteer list. She will contact those who have signed up when the planting date is set.

SCAN needs new editor

Do you have experience with editing a newsletter, newspaper or magazine? Susan Goracke, who has edited the newsletter for the past year, is resigning to spend more time with her family. However, she will continue to take some photos and write some stories. Please consider volunteering your time to help us produce the Sabin Community Association newsletter. We publish monthly except for July, August and December. For more information, contact Clay Veka at clayveka@gmail.com or Diane Benson at dcb1810@yahoo.com.

Beech Street Project still under way

Work continues on the Beech Street Project, reports Arati von Behren, who has been working with neighbors to spruce up Northeast Beech Street between about 7th and 15th avenues. Several curb strips have been replanted

and two intersections are being painted. A bench should be installed soon.

Two King Neighborhood residents, Carrie White and Clark Pope, are building and will donate three front-yard libraries, to be installed this summer.

"The project is intended to beautify the neighborhood and to encourage interaction between people as they look at and smell the plants, take or leave books in the little libraries, paint the streets and just say hello to each other," von Behren says. "This should discourage any criminal elements that are still drawn to the area and, in turn, reduce fear for residents. I hope we'll see lots of people out on the streets."

For more information, contact von Behren at tea@flyawakepdx.com or stop by the Fly Awake Tea Garden at 3514 N.E. 13th Ave.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Clay Veka

Dear Sabin Neighbors,

We had a fabulous General Meeting on May 12. My two favorite parts of the evening were:

- Hearing the stories shared by dynamic and long-time Sabin residents. We learned about welding in the Kaiser Shipyards during WWII and the vibrant African American community in Albina before urban renewal. Thank you to those who shared your experience and helped to weave together our collective history. To read these stories and more Sabin history, visit SabinPDX.org and click on "Linda Wysong's Sabin Blog" partway down the right side of the page.

- Welcoming the five new, energetic members who joined the SCA board of directors: Erin Brasell, Lauren Gross, Dave Paumier, Sarah Reed, and Gurpreet Takher. I'm really excited to work with this new board over the next year. At the same time, we will deeply miss Sabin-native Joshua Curtis and his many contributions. We wish him well in his new adventures in NYC.

Have a great summer!

— Clay Veka

Summer news hiatus

As always, the Sabin Community Association Newsletter will go on summer vacation during July and August. We'll continue posting neighborhood news on SCA's Facebook page and Nextdoor Sabin, so please "like" us on Facebook and sign up for Nextdoor. To view SCA newsletters starting with the January 2014 issue, go online to SCA's website (www.sabinpdx.org). Click on "More" at the top of the page and select "Newsletter Archives."

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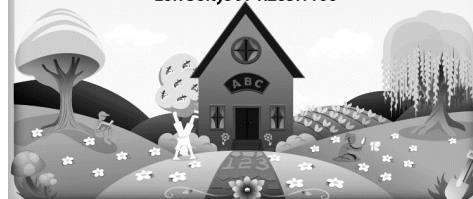
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Fence gates strengthen neighborliness

If, to quote a Robert Frost poem, "good fences make good neighbors," then adding gates to those fences make for *great* neighbors, says Sabin Community Association President Clay Veka.

Veka and her family enjoy using the gate in the fence they share with neighbors directly behind their home. And those neighbors share a fence gate with another set of neighbors.

Veka explains that the idea for their fence gate surfaced when the two families could hear each other's kids playing in their respective back yards, and the adults would peer over the top of the fence to say hello. Because it wasn't always convenient to go around the block to visit each other, especially during busy evening hours, they added the gate. Now, they interact on a much more frequent and informal basis.

The Vekas' gate is actually a door purchased from the Rebuilding Center. After removing three fence boards, the Vekas cut the door to size and attached it to an existing fence post with a hinge.

The fence between Teresa Roether and Peter Drake's yard and their back neighbors' yard always had a passageway, although the current gate



Maren Veka reenters her own back yard after visiting the neighbors who live behind her house.

evolved over time. It, too, once was a door. Drake has since built a beautiful, handcrafted gate and also built a tree house on his side of the fence. He appreciates how the gate facilitates neighborly communication. But the gate also can be closed to signal a private activity in one yard or to contain pets or chickens.

One concern about installing a gate might be, what if my neighbor moves and we don't want to be as connected to the new neighbors? Drake has shared his gate with several neighbors through the years and says it has worked out for everybody. However, if a gate were to become a problem, it easily could be removed and fence boards replaced.

Max Wicker, 8, says the gate between his and his next-door neighbor's yard is "awesome!" His mom, Amy Hunter, says the gate was added when the other family had an extra, unused gate. Hunter jokingly suggested they use it to connect their two yards. To her happy surprise, the neighbors agreed. Now they call their two yards "the compound" and their children run freely between their yards.

— Michelle Ganow-Jones

SABIN BRIEFS

Don't miss the Sabin picnic

The Sabin Community Picnic will be held on National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 5, at 5:30 p.m. at Sabin School playing field. Bring your family, a picnic dinner and games to play. No alcoholic beverages or dogs, please.

Looking for fun? Join Sabin's scavenger hunt this summer

Find out how well you know Sabin and get to know your neighborhood even better. Three different versions of the scavenger hunt form are at www.sabinpdx.org. Complete one or all three. Drop completed forms into the Sabin Scavenger Hunt Box in the Albina Library. Receive recognition and a Sabin Badge at the Sabin picnic.

Sabin orchard sets summer events

Come to the Sabin Community Orchard this summer to learn how to keep fruit trees healthy and productive, plus help with orchard maintenance. All ages are welcome, but please register online at www.portlandfruit.org to attend. The orchard is at Northeast Mason between 18th and 19th avenues. Here is the schedule:

- Sunday, June 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. Topics: Fruit thinning and pest control.
- Sunday, July 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. Topics: Low-tech irrigation and fruit monitoring.

Get your 'Bee Friendly Garden' sign

Eliminating pesticides is healthier for your family and pets, not to mention bees and other wildlife. If you pledge to stop using them, we'll give you a "bee-friendly garden" sign and add you to the map of Sabin bee-friendly gardens. To see the map and find out which plants are best for bees and other pollinators, visit SCA's website (sabinpdx.org). To get your garden sign, contact Diane Benson at dcb1810@yahoo.com.

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